ON A7 ▸ The State Hornet endorses five executive candidates

ON A3 ▸ What voters need to know about Tuesday's elections.

ASI ELECTIONS

ONLINE

▸ View questionnaires from candidates for all positions

▸ Poll: Who are you voting for in the presidential race?

THE STATE HORNET

est. 1949 | California State University, Sacramento | April 19, 2006 | Spring Issue 12 | Volume 58 No. 26 | One Copy Free

"Remember, this is not an ASI project. ... This is not a consensus or a democracy."
– Alexander Gonzalez, campus president





"I absolutely expect the president of the university to answer directly."
– Angel Barajas, ASI president

Gonzalez pressed for answers

JESSICA WEIDLING
State Hornet

While Associated Students Inc. legislation is demanding answers about the details of a proposed recreation facility, President Alexander Gonzalez says the legislation's assertions are based on "faulty information."

The campus president insists the next steps to cultivate the Recreation Wellness Events Center and Sports Complex will not center around student input.

"Remember, this is not an ASI project," Gonzalez said. "This is not a consensus or a democracy."

Gonzalez is set to speak at ASI's board meeting today to address the legislation – authored by ASI President Angel Barajas and backed by the entire board of directors – which seeks to keep the integrity of the students' 2004 referendum vote, Barajas said.

The legislation, to be voted on today, asks Gonzalez to "recognize the integral process and outcome of the student vote" and urges Gonzalez to pledge that the $25 million he fundraised for the project will not go toward the construction of the $8.9 million Broad Athletic Facility, replacing the old field house, accord-

FACILITY: Page A5

HIGHLIGHTS OF ASI LEGISLATION

Because only the Recreation Wellness Events Center was featured on the 2004 ballot, ASI argues that:

- Money that Gonzalez raised through private donations should not go toward Broad Athletic Facility.
- Students should not pay increased fees until cost and plans for the separated Events Center are determined.

ASI's parking plan gets support

NIKA MEGINO
State Hornet

President Alexander Gonzalez announced his support for Associated Students Inc.'s legislation that pushes for student-only parking in Parking Structure III earlier this month.

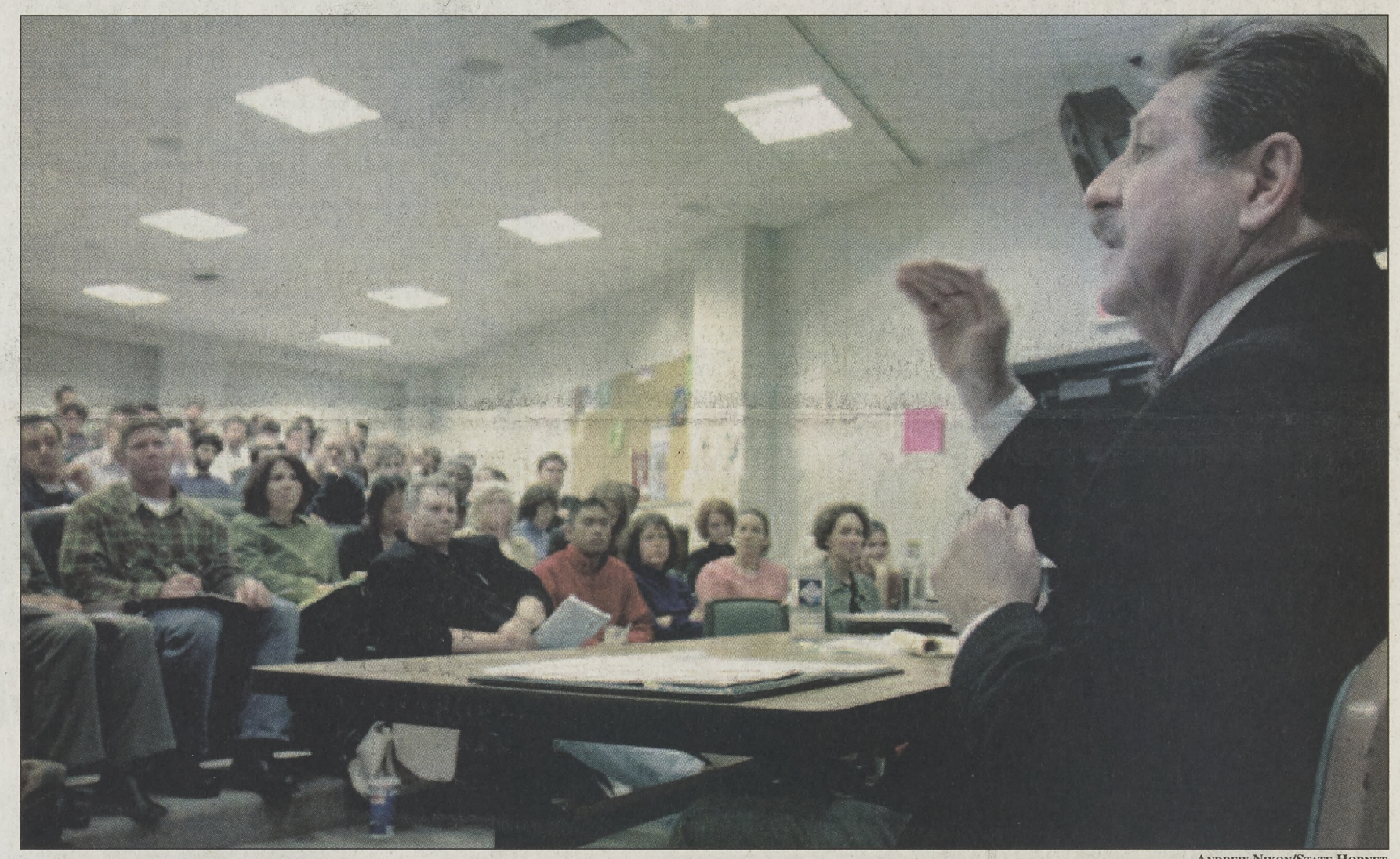
Gonzalez expressed his support in a memorandum addressed to ASI President Angel Barajas on April 5.

The legislation – written by Barajas and ASI Executive Vice President Robbie Abelon in March – states that the inequality of fees is a reason why the structure, which is slated to open in spring 2007, should be exclusively for student use.

The legislation also states that students pay $108 – an increase from $63 implemented in fall 2003 – in student parking fees that contribute to the cost of construction of Parking Structure III, which totals around $33.8 million. Faculty and staff pay a $63 fee, and Barajas said that faculty and staff's parking fees have always been the same.

In the memo, Gonzalez wrote that equity and fairness should be questioned since students providing funding for the

PARKING: Page A6



ANDREW NIXON/STATE HORNET

President Alexander Gonzalez meets with junior faculty members on April 12 in Mariposa Hall. Below, California Faculty Association Vice President Lillian Taiz voiced her concerns regarding the disparity in pay between junior faculty members and newly hired faculty.

Mustangs drive off into sunset

BRANDON DARNELL
State Hornet

A group of car thieves struck Sacramento State on Thursday, stealing three Ford Mustangs, police said.

Police said the thefts occurred between 7 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

Every once in a while, there will be a group that specializes in stealing one type of vehicle, said Lt. Dan Davis of the University Police Department. He said Thursday's thefts appear to be a pattern.

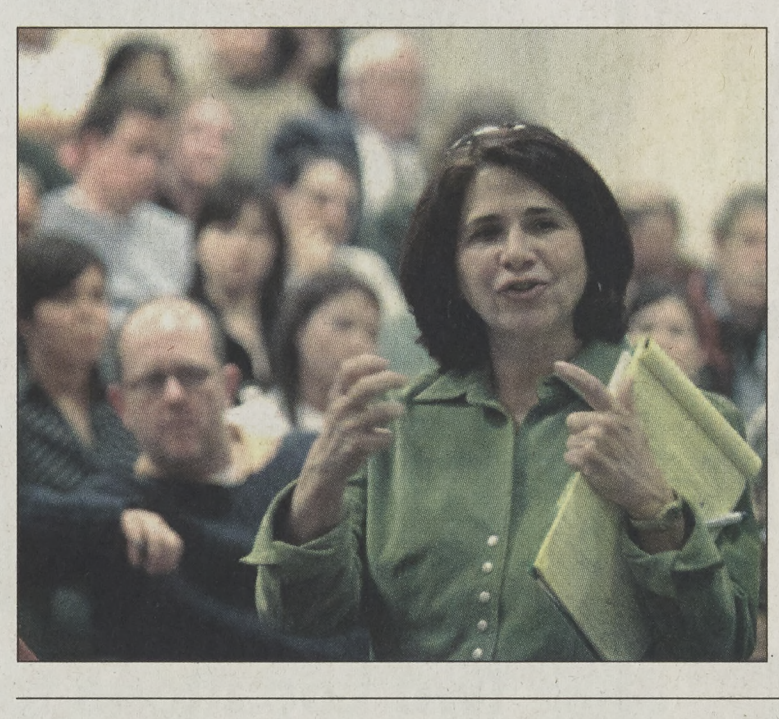
A blue 1990 Mustang was stolen from one of the parking structures and a primer gray 1967 Mustang was stolen from Parking Lot 7, according to the campus police log.

Pat Jennings, a junior majoring in finance, said his 1993 teal green Mustang was also stolen while on campus.

Jennings said his car was parked next to a fence near Parking Structure II and was "kind of secluded." He didn't have any anti-theft devices or an alarm on the car.

He said he thinks there was an organized group stealing the cars because there was no sign of a broken window.

MUSTANG: Page A2



Junior faculty voice concerns

NIKA MEGINO
State Hornet

In a room decorated with student-made posters stating, "The CSU system sucks!" and "More money for junior faculty," President Alexander Gonzalez met with faculty members and students to discuss the pay disparity between junior faculty and newly hired faculty on Thursday.

The issue of the pay disparity arose last month when junior faculty demanded for an immediate resolution – Gonzalez responded by issuing a memorandum that asked faculty members to submit an application for individual market salary adjustments, which the university established six years ago.

At the meeting, Gonzalez admitted that a salary raise for faculty and staff is needed. "It is a big problem," he said. "Everybody's salary needs to be raised. It's not just about recruitment. It's also about retention."

But Gonzalez could not provide any new method to immediately resolve the problem.

Gonzalez said he has had discussions with the chancellor's office about where the university stands and what can be done about the disparity but that the only thing faculty members can do

SALARY: Page A2

High Tech Center caters to disabled

MATTHEW BELTRAN
State Hornet

With the help of the Sacramento State High Tech Center, Mark Springer has his textbooks converted to text files and uses software to listen to the text as he reads along.

Springer, an English literature graduate student, was diagnosed with attention deficit disorder, but he went through his entire undergraduate and half of his graduate career without knowing.

He said he had a difficult time as a student, he wasn't doing well in his classes and was falling behind.

"I never would have been able to catch up in my work without their help," Springer said.

The support came after he was referred to the High Tech Center. Between the help he was getting at the center and working with the equipment and technology available, he was able to catch up with his work.

As a part of Disability Day, the High Tech Center had an open house on Tuesday, which showcased the computer technology used to help students like Springer who have physical or learning disabilities study and do work for their classes.

The center receives 60 to 100 new students each semester, High Tech Center Coordinator and instructor Melissa Repa said, and for many new students

CENTER: Page A3



ANDREW NIXON/STATE HORNET

Julio Pulido, a vocal rehabilitation grad student, 'trains' speech recognition software by reading the Gettysburg Address on Monday at the High Tech Center.

Dean candidates interviewed

JAMIE GONZALEZ
State Hornet

Six professors are waiting to find out who will be the next dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at Sacramento State.

Brajas Das, the current dean of the college, is retiring at the end of the semester and Academic Affairs is searching for his replacement.

Ric Brown, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, said that the national search for the new dean started in the fall of 2005. With the last interview being conducted Monday, the Academic Affairs selection committee will choose between the six candidates at the end of April.

Candidates for the position include: Razmi Mahmood, chair of the Civil Engineering Department; S.K. Ramesh, chair of the Electrical and Electronic Engineering Department; Helen Boussalis, chair of the Electrical Engineering department at California State University, Los Angeles; Uei-Jiun Fan, associate dean of the Engineering Department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo; and Shenq Liou, a professor of electrical engineering at San Francisco State University.

NEWS DIGEST

Case postponed

Two former Sacramento State students who pleaded guilty to felony counts had their hearing postponed until May 19 on Friday at Amador County Courthouse, court officials said.

Brenden "Bo" Delapp and Westy Guill pleaded guilty to felony counts in February after they turned themselves in for throwing rocks at oncoming cars on Highway 16 on Nov. 9, 2005.

Delapp pleaded guilty to charges of assault with a deadly weapon. Guill pleaded guilty to four felony vandalism counts and assisting Delapp.

District Attorney Todd Riebe said DeLapp and Guill admitted to throwing up to 25 rocks at oncoming traffic on the highway, leaving a Carmichael man, Parish Compton, with serious injuries to his head and face. Compton's injuries included a shattered jaw and a crushed larynx, Riebe said.

Initially, Delapp and Guill, both former football players at Sac State, were facing 18 felony counts, but the other felony counts and eight misdemeanors were dismissed at the request of Riebe.

Alumni event

Alumni month will continue Thursday with the second annual "Sacramento State Night with the River Cats," where students are encouraged to spend time with alumni.

The event will be held at 7:05 p.m. at Raley Field in sections 102 and 101 and on the outfield lawn. Tickets prices range from $6 to $13.

– Hornet Staff

SALARY: 'It's an outrage,' professor says

Continued from A1

now is file for individual equity adjustments.

But faculty members expressed the problem with the application is that they would be judged on an individual basis in terms of their merits.

"We've already known about this option. We don't want raises based on merit. We don't want to compete with each other," Michelle Matisons, assistant professor of Women's Studies, told the State Hornet earlier this month.

Gonzalez said he thinks the two-page application, which requires faculty members to list their experience for equity adjustments, isn't a burden to fill out.

Despite the fact that data of faculty members' experiences are stored in the library, Gonzalez said faculty members are still required to list their qualifications and that there needs to be set criteria on the application.

"Why?" yelled Matisons. "We can just sign it, and you can look up the data," she said. Her suggestion was supported by applause from individuals in room, which was filled to capacity.

"It's an outrage," said Lisa Hammersley, assistant professor of the Geology Department. Hammersley, who was hired three years ago, said her husband, who has no experience, will begin teaching at Sac State with a salary worth more than $50,000 – a higher salary than she has now.

Among the students who attended the meeting was Associated Students Inc. Executive Vice President Robbie Abelon, who said he came to the meeting to support faculty because faculty supports students all the time.

"There is no stronger ally than that between the students and faculty," Abelon said.

Abelon said he had come to the meeting not only as a student leader on campus, but as a student who is considering becoming a professor. "What goes on here affects me," he said.

During his freshman year, Abelon said he told a professor he was interested in teaching someday at a university. His professor replied telling him not to because of the issues faculty face – including heavy workloads and unfair pay – and Abelon said he's not sure about becoming a professor now.

Abelon said he supports junior faculty and hopes that the issue will be resolved. "When somebody asks: 'Robbie, do you want to be a professor?' I want to be able to say yes," he said.

Faculty members said they would continue meeting until the issue was resolved.

California Faculty Association Vice President Lillian Taiz said that the organization has been working on a solution for the pay disparity.

Taiz said the average salary at Sac State is fourth from the bottom in the California State University system and that it is understood that it needs to be raised.

"We understand bills won't wait," she said. "We need to look at leadership to find creative ways to meet standards."

Gonzalez agreed to meet with junior faculty again in order to further discuss the issue.

Nika Megino can be reached at news@statehornet.com

AT STATEHORNET.COM

Thursday: Pride week, a week long event celebrating the gay community, is previewed
Friday: The State Hornet announces its 2006-07 editor in chief
Saturday: Greek week, a week long competition among the Greeks, kicks off with soccer games

MUSTANG: It wasn't 'rocket science'

Continued from A1

"I could probably break into it with a Slim Jim if I had one, it's not rocket science," Jennings said.

When Jennings realized his car was stolen, he contacted police to file a report.

Jennings had not heard anything about his car as of Monday. He assumes it has already been scrapped for parts.

Police currently have no leads or suspects, Davis said.

Sac State has anywhere from one to five officers on patrol at any given time: Lt. Davis suggested that drivers purchase anti-theft devices and not park in secluded areas.

He also said people should look into stolen vehicle recovery systems such as LoJack.

Anyone with information can call campus police at 278-6851.

Brandon Darnell can be reached at news@statehornet.com

Campus Police Log

April 6
Car Burglary – Sutter Hall – Someone broke into a car on either April 5 or April 6 and stole a stereo and iPod.

April 7
Loose or Dangerous Animal – Recycling Center – Two adult-size deer were reported at the Recycling Center about 6:30 a.m. When officers arrived, the deer were gone.

April 9
Log Entry – Public Service Building – An officer accidentally fired one round from a department firearm around 12:30 p.m. No one was injured.

April 11
Missing Person – Public Service building – A woman reported that her 16-year-old son was missing. She said he likes to hang out in the ROTC building. The boy was later found in the Union game room.

Thursday
Hit and Run – Parking Structure – A vehicle was hit between 7:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. and the driver did not leave a note. A witness to the hit and run did, however, leave a note.

Friday
Vandalism – Esplanade – A woman reported that her advertisement boards had been vandalized.

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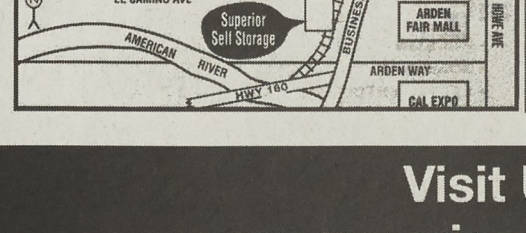
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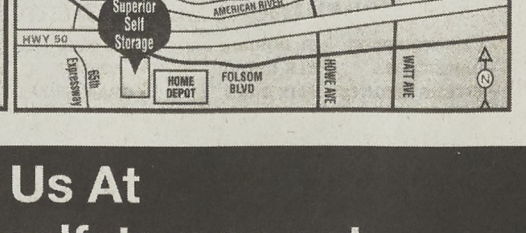


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ASI ELECTIONS

Voting campaign challenges student apathy

MAXWELL PUCKETT
State Hornet

With additional funding from Associated Students Inc.'s budget surplus going toward election promotion and student awareness, voter turnout is expected to surpass last year's 8 percent student turnout.

"We are desperately hopeful for an increase in voter turnout," said Executive Director of ASI Pat Worley of the elections that begin 8 a.m., April 25 and end at 7:30 p.m., April 26.

The $10,000 surplus from last year's ASI operating fund was allocated for activities to increase voter turnout for this year's election, said Angel Barajas, president of ASI.

Olgalilia Ramirez, director of governmental affairs for ASI, said ASI hopes to get a 20 percent turnout, which would more than double last year's participation.

The money allocated for election promotion is being used for many promotional outlets including, pins, T-shirts, Java City coffee sleeves, balloons, posters and banners.

Ramirez said the posters and other materials are not dated, so they can be used for future elections.

"This is investing in our future," Ramirez said. "No other elections have been conducted this way; with so much energy."



Robert Boyce, far left, running for director of natural sciences and mathematics, debates with directors for arts and letters and health and human services on April 12 in the University Union's Foothill Suite.

JIM ATHEY/ STATE HORNET

Randy Morgan, director of finance and administration, said the election is costing around $3,000, down from approximately $25,000 for previous elections.

"Electronic media are saving the student body a lot of money to go toward other activities," Morgan said.

For students who make it to the voting booth, three measures will be included on the ballot.

Measure 1 would lower the current requirements for undergraduate students running for executive positions by allowing them to be enrolled in two fewer units.

"The purpose of the bill is to increase the ability for students to run (in order to) increase participation," Barajas said.

Measure 2 would require candidates for president and vice president to be enrolled in at least seven units at Sacramento State during the semester the election is held, as well as in the semesters that they serve.

Measure 3 would require all functions or activities of ASI be limited to those authorized by the California State University Board of Trustees. Consent will be required from the trustees for ASI to perform functions outside of those already permitted.

Although this policy is already in place, it is not written into the current ASI bylaws, Worley said.

Also on the ballot will be a list of qualified campus organizations that will receive $2 for every student that checks one organization from the list. The money is funded by ASI's general operating budget, Morgan said.

Last year's most voted for campus organization was the College Republicans with 165 votes, followed by the College Democrats with 156. The Engineering and Computer Science Society both received 146 votes.

"The club ballot is an incentive to get more people to vote. Close to $1,000 went to clubs and organizations here on campus last election," Morgan said.

Elections will be conducted entirely online, a process which began for the fall 2004 special elections and is intended to be a mainstay for all subsequent voting, Worley said.

Election locations include the Library Quad, west side union walkway, Riverfront Center patio, Student Access Center and any computer with Internet access by going to ASI's Web site.

Maxwell Puckett can be reached at news@statehornet.com

CENTER: It provides computers for disabled students

Continued from A1

this is the first time they have ever used adaptive programs or used a computer period.

Some computers in the center are equipped with adaptive programs such as: JAWS, a screen reading program that allows students who are blind or have low vision to use a computer, and ZoomText, a text-enlarging program and Kurzweil, which scans and reads text to help people with learning disabilities.

Located on the second floor of the Academic Information Resource Center, the High Tech Center provides training and support in the use of adaptive technology, Repa said.

"We give students with disabilities access to computers," Repa said.

The center offers a variety of programs that allow students with disabilities to operate a computer independently.

By using the program Kurzweil, Springer said has been able to complete his reading assignments faster and with far better comprehension of the required material.

Springer said he really appreciates the help he gets at the center and is always raving to the supervisors about what a great job they are doing.

As a graduate student, Springer has to cover a wide variety of English literature that ranges from 750 A.D. to the present, he said. At the end of the semester, Springer has to take a five-hour comprehensive exam where he has to show he has a full understanding of the text.

Alternative media specialists are also available to help students with converting text books, the process of transforming word documents and maps into braille, or converting textbooks and other documents into text files, so students can use text-reading programs such as Kurzweil.

Some computers are set up with the voice recognition program Dragon Naturally Speaking, which allows the user to control the computer without a mouse or keyboard, said Trevor Lorenz, the center information technology consultant.

"Anything you can do with a keyboard and mouse, you can do with your voice," Lorenz said. "It's pretty much limitless."

Along with software, the center also provides naturally shaped keyboards, adjustable computer tables and trackballs to assist students who suffer from carpal tunnel syndrome or other physical disabilities.

Students are first referred to the center from the Students with Disability Office and are then given an assessment of their technological needs, including a list of what has worked and hasn't worked for the students, Repa said.

The center provides individual and class-sized training which can take a few months or several semesters until a student can become comfortable using a computer.

The center moved to the resource center at the end of February from room 136 of the Library.

Before the training classes began, the offices and the computer lab were all in one room. Now, it is in the resource center there is much easier access to each station and the workers can work more closely with the students, Repa said.

"The space is a lot better to provide the training and support to students," Repa said.

Springer said he could always count on the center. "There is no way I could have gone through this English experience without their help," Springer said.

For more information on the High Tech Center and the equipment and programs available, visit their Web site at www.csus.edu/sswd/services/htc.html.

Matthew Beltran can be reached at news@statehornet.com

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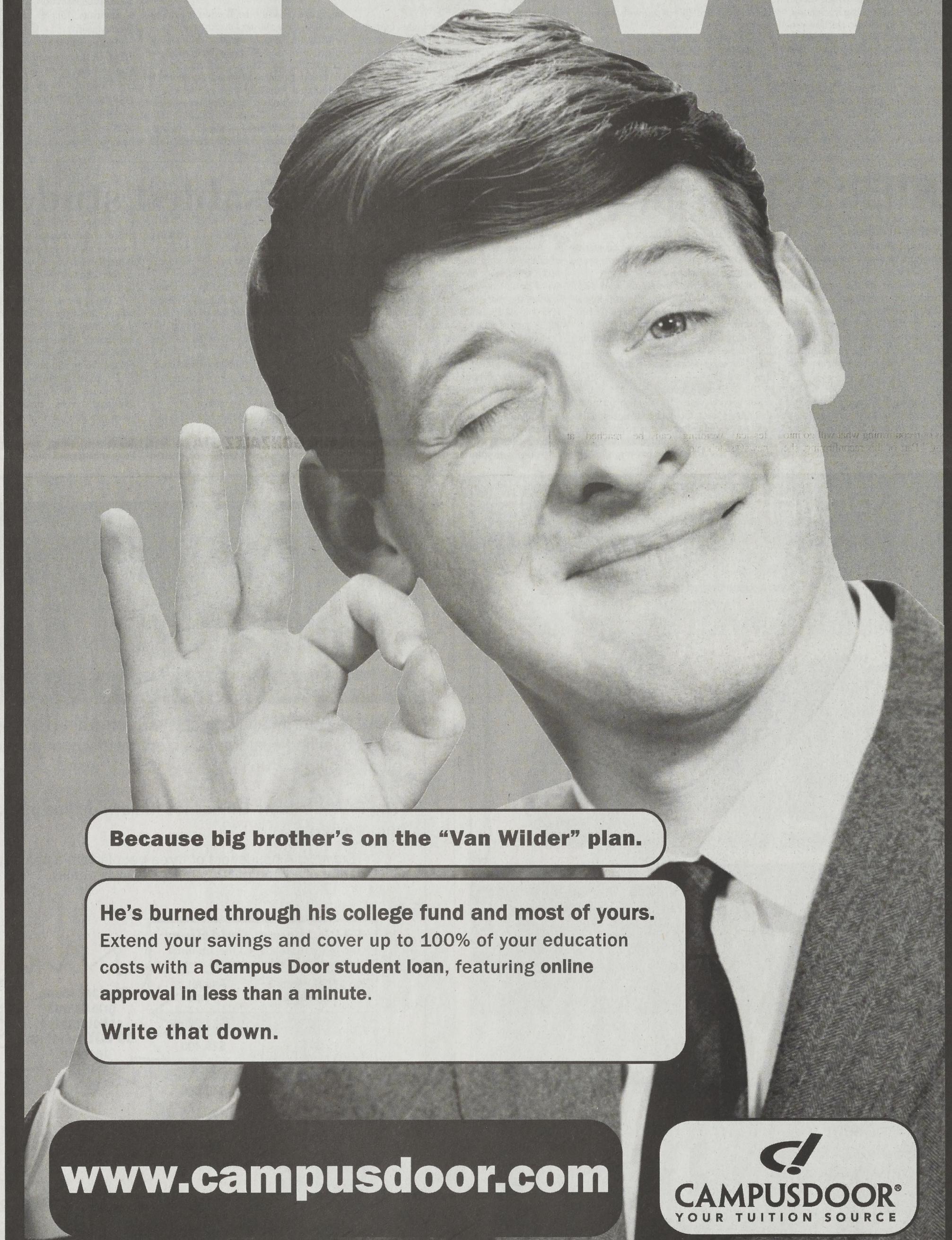
Number of Persons in Household	Annual Income
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FACILITY: Total cost is one of concerns

Continued from A1

ing to the legislation.

The separately built athletic facility, which will be the first part of the project and is slated to be constructed by fall 2007, was originally included in the entire complex estimate of $73.2 million, Gonzalez said.

Barajas said the original plan did not include the construction of a new field house.

"I understand the urgency to build the new field house, however, we want to make Gonzalez understand it wasn't a part of the original plan," Barajas said.

According the referendum language, a recreation center, wellness center and events center totaling 236,000 square feet was to be built – but no specific mention of a proposed field house was included.

The second part of the legislation asks Gonzalez to promise that no additional student fee increases – on top of the current $110 semester fee and $56 summer fee – will be put on students because of the uncertainty surrounding the cost and construction timeline of the events center, which is included in the final phases of a roughly four-phase project, according to the legislation.

Clifford Hawley, ASI director of natural sciences and mathematics, said because the funding for the events center and Hornet Stadium renovations are now uncertain, he said he is concerned that the project tally – now at around $58 to $63 million with the athletic facility and recreation and wellness center estimate – should surpass the original figure. He said he worries students will pay the difference.

Hawley also said he does not think the events center should be built last because it is a pivotal part of the project, replacing the current gym, which he calls a "1,200-seat box," and has the potential of holding "community-based conferences."

Hawley said he thinks administration officials were "dangling the carrot" when throwing around different ideas about what amenities the project would offer students.

Sacramento State press releases have continually referred to the project as possibly housing "a student health center, fitness center, rock-climbing wall, swimming pool, athletic courts, bowling center, conference center and 8,000-seat arena." Now, university officials will not release specific information about the project.

Leslie Davis, director of the University Union, said in an e-mail, "We are beginning the process of reconfirming what will go into the building." Part of this reconfirming, she said, will involve a programming committee made up of three students and five faculty members to guide the project's progress.

Barajas said that students, including ASI, were not properly informed of the change in construction plans. And when the University Union Board of Directors presented the plan to ASI on March 1, he said the university offered ASI two proposals and had not confirmed that they were splitting the project into several phases. Hawley agreed with Barajas' depiction of events.

Davis, who had a different account of the March 1 meeting, said ASI was updated of the new plans.

"The student's were not informed of the change, which is why the research should be done before it's put on the ballot," Barajas. He asked why the university didn't hire consultants and architects before the decision was made to put the referendum on the ballot.

Gonzalez said the $10 fee – put into effect after the referendum was passed – was necessary in hiring an architect, which sparked the conceptual phase of the project. He said there was no funding to hire project consultants before the referendum was passed.

Gonzalez said he thinks a lot of misinformation surrounds students' understanding of the project and that all plans up until now have been tentative. The next phases, he said, will focus on solidifying the plans.

As a practical matter, Gonzalez said developing the plans will not include a lot of student input because it wouldn't work to evaluate all students' wants and needs on an even playing field.

"When it's all said and done this is going to be a bunch of smoke," Gonzalez said. "My concern is that we get something to the students as soon as possible."

Gonzalez said he will work to keep the cost within the original estimate, but said that the rising prices of key resources such as steel will affect the project's price.

Barajas said if the legislation passes, Gonzalez has until April 24 to issue a written response addressing the legislation's key points. If Gonzalez is not responsive, Barajas said ASI might explore different avenues in getting its point across.

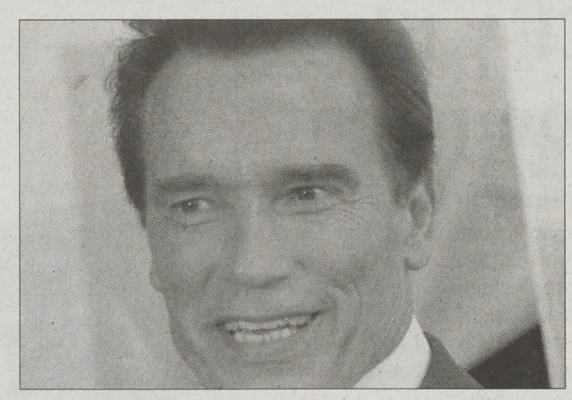
But Barajas expects to have an open dialogue with Gonzalez at today's ASI meeting.

"I absolutely expect the president of the university to answer directly," Barajas said. "The student body needs clarity – clear and concise answers from Gonzalez."

Jessica Weidling can be reached at news@statehornet.com

EYES ON THE STARS





Laurence Fishburne, above left, stars as a Dr. Joshua Larabee in "Akeelah and the Bee," which premiered at the Crest Theatre on Monday night. The event drew Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who made the walk down the red carpet and promoted keeping movies in California. Also at the premiere were, from bottom left, director and writer Doug Atchison, along with actresses Keke Palmer, Dalia Phillips (also an assistant producer) and Angela Bassett. The film follows the quest of a a young girl, Akeelah (played by Palmer), who aspires to find herself and eventually wins the National Spelling Bee.



JAMIE GONZALEZ STATE HORNET



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PARKING: CFA files complaint

Continued from A1

structure's construction and might be required to compromise spaces with those who are not contributing to the construction.

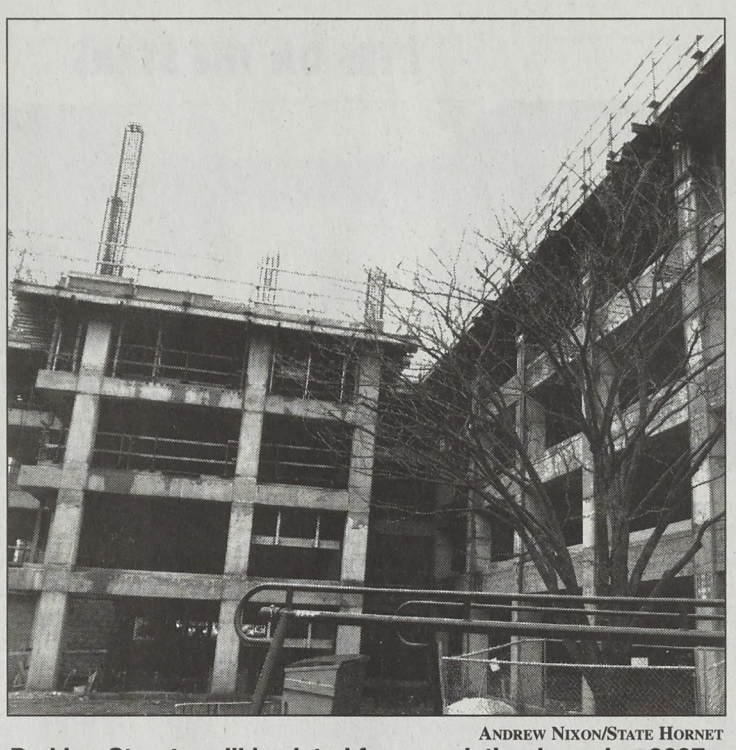
"In that respect, I agree with the student perspective that it should be for their use exclusively," Gonzalez said.

But Gonzalez also wrote that the California Faculty Association and the California State University Employees Union filed a complaint of unfair labor practice regarding the same issue – student-only parking of Parking Structure II – and that it was supported in its first hearing.

"We will have to await the results of the appeal process in order to determine the precedent that will be relevant to the current situations," Gonzalez said.

Regardless, Gonzalez said he is supportive. "I remain committed to working to solve the parking situation on campus and to support your (ASI's) position," Gonzalez said.

Abelon said he is glad that Gonzalez backs the legislation. "That's already a victory for students," Abelon said.



ANDREW NIXON/STATE HORNET

Parking Structure III is slated for completion in spring 2007.

Nika Megino can be reached at news@statehornet.com

More students facing loan-ly road from debt

NORM ERICKSON
State Hornet

Pedro Martinez, a former Sacramento State psychology student, financed his education using student loans, but like many college students he struggled with paying the loans back – defaulting several times after not graduating.

"I was young and didn't budget well," said Martinez, who now works in Admissions and Records on campus. "I had no understanding of what it took to pay back the money."

Eventually, Martinez's wages were garnisheed to satisfy the debt, he said.

With the costs of higher education rising nationwide, students are increasingly turning to loans to finance their education, but the escalating indebtedness is becoming too financially burdensome for some students.

The U.S. Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education recently held a hearing in Boston and students from New England colleges addressed the mounting debt issue.

According to the Student Debt Alert, a project of Student Public Interest Research Groups, Josh Chaisson, who attends the University of Southern Maine, told the commission that students are graduating as "slaves to Sallie Mae."

At Sac State, the average debt of graduating students who take out loans is more than $17,500, according to statistics from the Financial Aid Department.

"Every year I see an increase in the level of loans taken out," said Linda Joy Clemons, director of the Financial Aid Office. "Rent, food and having a car are big-ticket items that go up every year, and grants usually cover just fees and books, so students borrow more."

According to the Student Needs and Priorities Survey, conducted by Sac State in fall 2003, 73 percent of students have at least "some concerns" about financing their studies and 52 percent use some type of loan to make ends meet.

Most student advocates call for increasing grants – which aren't paid back and don't put students into debt – to lessen the need for loans.

Clemons agrees with that plan of attack.

"It would be nice if the federal government funded grants like loans, but I don't foresee that happening," she said.

The nature of loans – recycling money to new borrowers as graduates pay off debt – makes them more attractive to the federal government, Clemons said.

However, according to the public interest group, nearly $250 million could be available to college students in California without taking more money from taxpayers or from other programs.

The Student Aid Reward Act, which is awaiting Congressional action, contains provisions that would encourage schools to use the lowest-cost lending program by increasing direct government loans and decreasing government subsidized private lender loans – rerouting the money to student aid that is now goes to financiers, according to the public interest group's Web site.

The public interest group suggests that the increased availability of aid then be distributed to students by adding $600 to each need-based Pell Grant.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that if all colleges switched to direct government loans under the reward act – which was introduced last year by two House members – more than $60 billion in additional student aid would be generated over a 10- year period, according to a U.S. House of Representatives fact sheet on the bill.

That bump in grant money might help Sac State undeclared freshman Victor Rangel achieve his goal of graduating while owing no more than $5,000.

"I've already borrowed $3,500 but, from here on out, I'm going to try to pay for the rest without loans," he said.

Rangel hopes to avoid the situation in which his friend, Martinez, found himself.

Rangel said that if he must resort to taking out more loans, most likely the debt incurred would affect his job search.

Norm Erickson can be reached at news@statehornet.com

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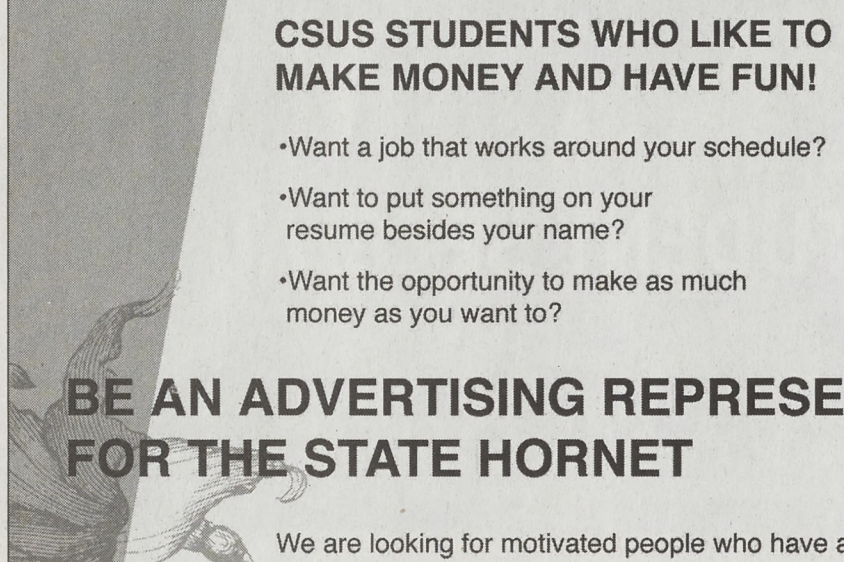
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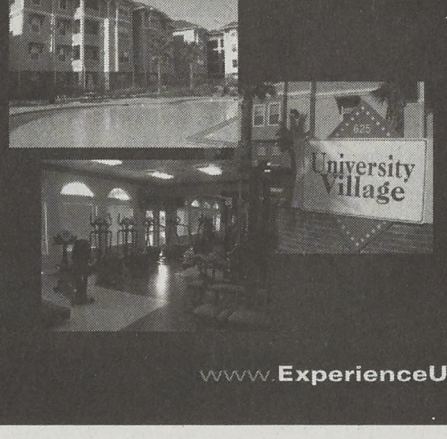
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STATE HORNET EDITORIAL

WHAT ABOUT THAT BOWLING ALLEY?

Student voters were told to let their imaginations run free in spring 2004.

They had 236,000 square feet to play with, and the possibilities were endless.

After surveying 22 campus groups and nearly 400 students, university consultants Joel Zarr and Dan Adams ranked how students wanted space to be used in the proposed Recreation Wellness Events Center. Topping the list were, in order, a movie theater, multipurpose pool and bowling center.

OK, we get it, sometimes students don't even know what students want: A rock-climbing wall was ranked above a study hall, laser tag above healthy food.

However, in order to build momentum for the project, President Alexander Gonzalez realized students would have to feel involved in the project – even laser tag fiends.

FRONT PAGE
ASI presses Gonzalez for answers
▸ Page A1

On March 24, 2004, nearly one month before voting, the university released proposed plans for the facility: "It is envisioned as including, among other things, a new student health center, fitness center, rock-climbing wall, swimming pool, athletic courts, six-lane bowling center, fitness classrooms, concession space, childcare center, conference center and an 8,000-seat arena for events such as commencement and intercollegiate athletics."

When voting day struck, the referendum itself included none of these amenities. The university's only obligation was to build a 236,000-square foot facility.

Now it's looking like that bowling equipment you picked up at Sports Chalet in anticipation for the new facility may never leave the friendly confines of Country Club Lanes.

A new committee has been formed to prioritize what will go into the Recreation and Wellness Center (formerly the RWEC). That committee will consist of eight members, three of whom are students.

And because of budget and space constraints, the university is now saying the facility won't feature many of the "envisioned" features.

"It was too massive of a footprint," Gonzalez said of the facility. "Even if we turned the angle, it would impinge on the practice track."

On behalf of student voters, we say screw the practice track.

We already have one; it's called "our block."

A lack of space is no excuse because the university knew how much space was available before the referendum. And money isn't the issue, because we agreed to have our fees rise with inflation.

From the start, what was "envisioned" in the 2004 university press release was never realistic; it was only pitched as if it was.

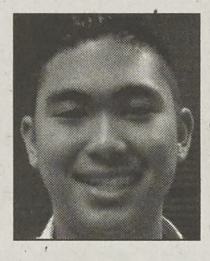
We hope the new project committee will bring at least some of those envisioned facilities to life.

ELECTION DATES:
8 P.M. APRIL 25
THROUGH 7:30 P.M. APRIL 26

ASI ENDORSEMENTS

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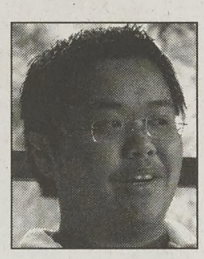
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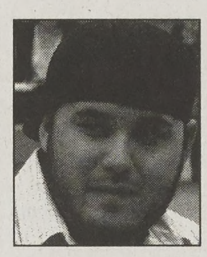
Robbie Abelon
Junior, Advocate



Angela Arriola
Senior, ImpACT



Cynthia Dela Cruz
Senior, Spectrum



Curtis Grima
Senior, Studentcrats

The Hornet endorses: Robbie Abelon ✔

The junior double major in government and history has the most experience in ASI, currently serving as executive vice president … Chairman of ASI Board of Directors and DOC/SEL committee member (DOC/SCEL is a committe that gives money to student organizations and clubs.) … Brought College Democrats back to campus and served as the club's president … Former board member of California State Students Association. ... Interns for councilmember Ray Tretheway.

Pros: Most polished of four candidates … Top priority is parking, and he recently wrote a resolution to the administration asking for Parking Structure III to be student-only. … Abelon plans to write legislation to make 10 percent of ASI board member stipends go toward scholarships for student leaders … Has experience bringing politicians and California State University trustees to campus. … After Hurricane Katrina hit, joined Red Cross and helped in relief efforts as the head of facilities in a Louisiana relief center. … Helped write legislation to increase funding for outreach programs. … Plans to challenge Gonzalez to make outreach and retention a top priority.

Cons: After being elected to vice president of academic affairs in spring 2005, Abelon was unable to fill the position because of a 1.8 GPAe. Cited personal issues and a lack of balance between work and school as reasons for his poor grades. He has since improved his GPA to a 2.9 during the fall semester. … His Parking Structure III resolution is flawed, as it fails to consider CSU system's mandatory student-faculty parking ratio.

Other candidates:

Angela Arriola

The senior sociology major is focused on shedding ASI's negative reputation by increasing its visibility on campus ... Served as interim vice president of finance and director of the College of Business on ASI … Serves on several ASI committees, including finance and budget and regional transit contract renewal … Student policy representative on California State Student Association … Former co-coordinator for Safe Rides … Former academic adviser and University Union building supervisor.

Pros: Wants to add marketing position and bring back student government newsletter to get word out about ASI and its programs ... Believes ASI can become a stronger force with more student support … Top priorities are improving academic advising, academic resources, outreach programs, student safety and student-only parking in Parking Structure III … Strong advocate for better educational resources.

Cons: Does not propose enough specific legislation or proposals in certain areas of her platform, such as academic counseling, parking and campus safety.

Cynthia Dela Cruz

Senior health science major is only candidate without ASI experience … President of Queer Straight Alliance … Intern at Student Health Center as peer health educator … Member of Kappa Iota Nu, first non-gender specific, queer and queer-friendly coed fraternity … All members of her Spectrum slate are openly "queer," she said.

Pros: Running for student government to serve as a voice for those who go "unheard." … Believes campus life will benefit through ASI reaching out to the often-ignored student groups. … Promotes increased childcare, unisex bathrooms and increased resources for disabled students … Wants to get previously ignored issues out in the public.

Cons: Might have trouble getting general student population to support her unique platform. … Unveiled campaign posters more than a week after other campaigns.

Curtis Grima

Senior government-journalism major is the most outwardly enthusiastic of candidates. … Current secretary of state affairs for ASI … last year served as chief of staff to president Luke Wood … Member of athletics task force committee … Former writer for The State Hornet newspaper … Member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity.

Pros: Shows a passion for issues he feels are important to students. ... Strongly supports student-only parking in Parking Structure III. Proposes giving faculty and staff the overflow parking lot in order to keep a required faculty-student parking ratio. … Wants a committee made up of non-ASI students to perform checks and balances of ASI funds. … Advocates turning a failed Greek housing proposal into an organizational housing proposal in an effort to get more students involved.

Cons: Makes promises that ASI has very little influence over, such as "no fee increases ever." In essence, he may have bitten off more than he can chew.

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

The Hornet endorses: Jesus Andrade ✔

(ImpACT) The senior philosophy, applied ethics and law major has previous experience in ASI, having served as the director of undeclared students in the spring of 2004 ... Intern counselor at CSUs Outreach Services ... Currently working as a research analyst in the Quality of Life Study.

A top priority is accountability, and he proposes to work closely with all board members to ensure accountability ... Endorses Parking Structure III as student only while suggesting alternatives for faculty parking, such as a faculty structure in the proposed faculty community ... Plans to hold at least two student forums a semester to allow student input. ... No previous executive ASI experience.

Other candidates:

Noemi Beas

(Advocate) The junior sociology major is currently serving as chief of staff to Angel Barajas ... Currently a student representative for California State Students Association ... Student representative on the Transportation Advisory Committee ... Finance and Budget Student Representative.

Has worked with ASI executives ... Suggests bringing Recreation and Wellness Center back to referendum for students to approve changes. ... Many issues are simply carrying over from the previous administration.

Christopher Moore

(Spectrum) The senior government major is focused on integrating diversity on campus ... Political chair of the Queer Straight Alliance.

Plans to enter ASI with no preconceived agenda to ensure objectivity ... Proposes to make ASI's budget public so that students can see where their money is going. ... No previous ASI experience.

Walter Wallace

(Studentcrats) The junior double major in digital communications and political science is focused on bringing student input into ASI ... Former resident adviser.

Has a connection with students through his job as a Hornet Shuttle driver ... Proposes to have ASI members go out and interact with students to find out student wants. ... No previous ASI experience.

VICE PRESIDENT OF FINANCE

The Hornet endorses: Matthew Plummer ✔

(Advocate) The junior government major is focused on bringing funding back to grant programs ... Involved with Young Democrats ... Currently works for a lobbyist at the Capitol on initiating campaigns and influencing the legislature ... Currently vice president of Sigma Chi where he has overseen committees on the distribution of funds and set-spending goals.

Proposes surplus ASI funding be given to the DOC/SCEL grant program ... Plans to set goals for ASI that are truly in ASI's reach ... Proposes audits to keep ASI honest. ... No previous ASI experience.

Other candidates:

Tiffany Huang

(Studentcrats) The senior business major, with concentrations in general management and marketing is focused on internal oversight of fund allocation ... Served as vice president of finance for Alpha Chi Omega ... Member of the American Marketing Association.

Suggests recruiting students from outside of ASI to help provide oversight ... Proposes monthly audits for ASI. ... No previous ASI experience ... No suggestions for possible funding options.

Allison Williams

(ImpACT) The senior business major vows to fight tuition caps, assists in the increase in scholarship funds and promotes student retention, according to her bio in the ASI election pamphlet.

Williams was the only executive candidate that The Hornet was unable to interview; she also did not return The Hornet's questionnaire by press time. … She is currently president of Beta Alpha Psi, a national honorary organization for accounting students.

THE STATE HORNET ENDORSEMENT PANEL

The State Hornet endorsement panel was headed by Editor in Chief Nicholas Lozito and Opinion Editor Jenna Hughes. The panel has endorsed one candidate from each executive position.

Lozito and Hughes, with News Online Editor Nika Megino, interviewed 18 of the 19 executive position candidates for roughly 15 minutes each. Each candidate also filled out a questionnaire, which was reviewed by the panel and can be found online at statehornet.com.

Endorsements were given to candidates who the panel believed could best serve the Sacramento State student body while upholding the integrity of Associated Students Inc.

KEY ISSUES

The panel believes these issues will have the biggest influence in the April 25-26 ASI elections:

- Student-only parking in parking Structure III
- Funding toward outreach programs
- 24-hour library and study labs
- ASI accountability, following embezzlement charges to former executive member Julio Velazquez
- Holding President Alexander Gonzalez up to his end of the bargain on the Recreation and Wellness Center

ONLINE POLL

Who would you elect for ASI president?

Curtis Grima — 63 percent
Robbie Abelon — 16.7 percent
Cynthia Dela Cruz — 11.6 percent
Angela Arriola — 8.7 percent

137 TOTAL VOTES
RESULTS AS OF 3:49 P.M. MONDAY

VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

The Hornet endorses: Lenaea Sanders ✔

(ImpACT) The senior double major in social work and English is focused on giving students more academic resources ... Has more than 15 years experience in customer service ... Currently vice president of Kappa Iota Nu.

Proposes gradual transition to a 24-hour schedule for the University Union and library ... Plans to make ASI presence more well known even after the elections. ... No previous ASI experience.

Other Candidates:

Lynsie Herbert

(Studentcrats) The senior health science major is focused on having no further fee increases ... Currently a health educator at the Health Center.

Plans to make ASI a transparent government, allowing students to see everything that goes on ... Plans to improve general education advising by having more advisors available ... Proposes more 24-hour study areas. ... No previous ASI experience.

Brandon Ida

(Rowers for Reform) The junior government major is focused on providing more academic resources for students.

Proposes computer labs in the Residence Halls ... Plans to implement a Web site book exchange to give students an alternative to the bookstore ... Proposes to update classrooms ... Proposes a 24-hour schedule for the library. ... No previous ASI experience.

Malik Rigard

(Advocate) The junior criminal justice major is focused on retention programs for students ... Former equity relations officer.

Proposes funding be allocated for 24-hour services ... Proposes to set up a dialog between students and lawmakers about fee increases. ... No previous ASI leadership experience.

VICE PRESIDENT OF UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS

The Hornet endorses: Lizette Tovar ✔

(Advocate) The junior government major with a criminal justice minor is currently the director of undeclared students ... Has been with ASI in some way since her freshman year.

She plans to get more students involved with committees so that it isn't always the same people. ... Has a large focus on retention ... Proposes to promote ASI to reconnect with students.

Other candidates:

Miguel Cervantes

(ImpACT) The sophomore government major is focused on increasing student involvement on campus ... Former chairman of College Assistant Migrant Program Organization of Students.

Plans to lobby the state for better funding for grants and scholarships ... Proposes to make ASI more visible to students ... Plans to work toward faculty retention: ... No previous ASI experience.

Christopher Ramos

(Studentcrats) The junior criminal justice major is focused on increasing student involvement ... Currently vice president of Tau Kappa Epsilon ... Participated in the original RWEC campaign.

Feels that 8 percent of students voting is a tragedy and plans to get students more involved ... Wants to try and make a difference. ... Admitted having a lack of knowledge on Gonzalez's Destination 2010 plans ... No previous ASI experience.

Matthew Taylor

(Rowers for Reform) The junior photography major is focused on improving the university ... Currently an officer of the rowing team.

Plans to work for a residence hall computer lab ... Proposes to make ASI more visible around campus through online forums and literature around campus ... Plans to integrate student desires into ASI. ... No previous ASI experience.

GE honors program assigned first director

JAMIE GONZALEZ
State Hornet

With a new director in place, Sacramento State is ready to launch its General Education Honors Program aimed at challenging the minds of freshmen and sophomores.

On Monday, Greg Wheeler, associate director of undergraduate studies at Academic Affairs, made an announcement that Roberto Pomo, chair of the Theatre and Dance Department, will be the new director of the program.

The honors program was developed to "support curiosity and the acquisition of knowledge in highly motivated students," according to the program's Web site, and incoming students are eager to join the program, said George Craft, former interim director of the program.

To qualify for the program, students must have either a 3.5 GPA, a 1200 on the SAT or a 27 on the ACT.

The courses cover all of the general education requirements, except for physical sciences, U.S. history, English 1A and foreign languages.

"We currently have 60 students enrolled in the honors program," Craft said.

The current courses listed for the first semester are education, self-examination, and living; honors world civilization to 1600; and honors mathematical reasoning. Freshmen and sophomores are required to take the three courses plus at least one other course that would fulfill the GE and premajor requirements.

The courses will have 25-30 students and will use the "Socratic method rather than the lecture method," Craft said. The Socratic method is based on the ancient Greek philosopher's teaching style of asking a person many questions to create dialogue.

Participating students must take at least 30 lower division and six upper division units of the honors classes – out of a total of 46 lower division units and nine upper division units – to graduate with an honors certificate.

The university had an honors general education program during the 1950s and 1960s, but it faded. The university administration began to speak about creating a new system in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In 1998 the program began to take a concrete form and was finally approved in April 2005.

Craft said there are quite a few teachers who have signed up to advise the honors students.

"There are currently eight faculty teaching 12 courses," he said.

Doraiswamy Ramachandran, a professor with the mathematics/statistics department, said he is very excited about the honors program.

"It's evolved very well," Ramachandran said. "I expect it to be successful."

According to the Web site, any student who joins the honors program would receive a $500 President's scholarship in his or her first year.

Pomo said the announcement of his new position with the program came as a surprise.

"I applied because of the momentum of the program. The college is ready for this program," Pomo said.

Ramachandran said Pomo is a good choice for the program's director.

"He is a good person to be involved in this program," Ramachandran said.

Freshmen and sophomores who are interested in participating in the program can get more information and the application at www.csus.edu/honorsprogram.

Jamie Gonzalez can be reached at news@statehornet.com



DUDE WALKS LIKE A LADY

Rian Carroll stands in his high heels after a Women's Resource Center event that had men walk in women's shoes to help them better understand women's experiences. The walk, held Thursday, was part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Bottom, Justin Gomez hops over a pole as he finishes his walk alongside, from left, Stephen Kadberger, Travis Orange and Steve Dupre.

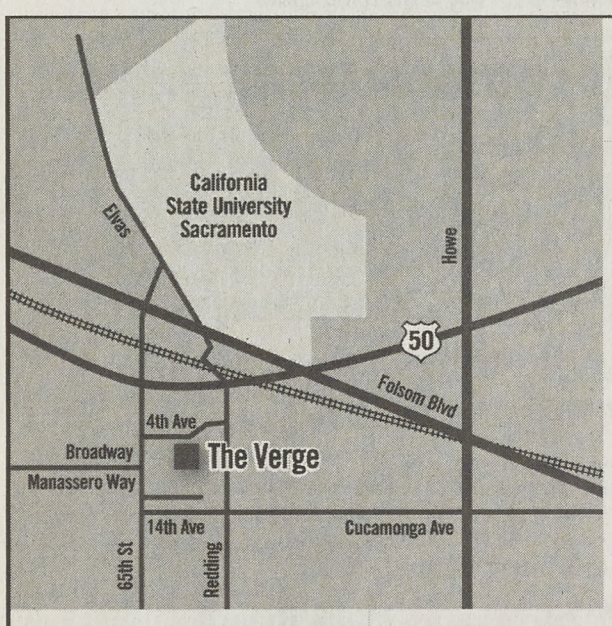


PETER MCCOLLOUGH STATE HORNET





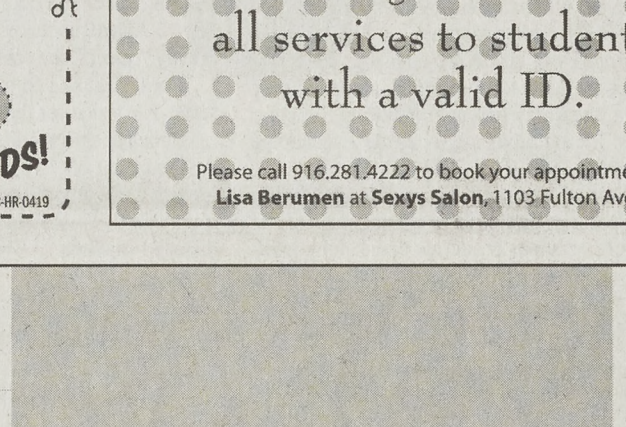




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The State Hornet | April 19, 2006 | Issue 12

Coming Back Around

Junaid Hossain's first opponent will be one of his last

Benn Hodapp
State Hornet

Growing up in Melbourne, Australia, senior men's tennis player Junaid Hossain really had no idea what his life would be like. A tall and lanky guy, Hossain excelled at volleyball in his youth even before attempting tennis.

Then, when he was 12 his father, a former heavyweight boxer in India, took Hossain out to play tennis. What happened next was nothing short of amazing.

Hossain played in his first tournament at the age of 13. He went up against the No. 1 junior tennis player in Australia, a kid by the name of Matt Carroll. It was Hossain's very first competitive match. Hossain defeated Carroll and went on to win the tournament.

As for he and Carroll, they became good friends and they remain close. Hossain pointed out the irony that he and Carroll will meet again when Sac State takes on Fresno Pacific University tomorrow, where Carroll attends school.

"It's kind of ironic that the guy I played my first competitive match against will also be one of the last," Hossain said with a grin.

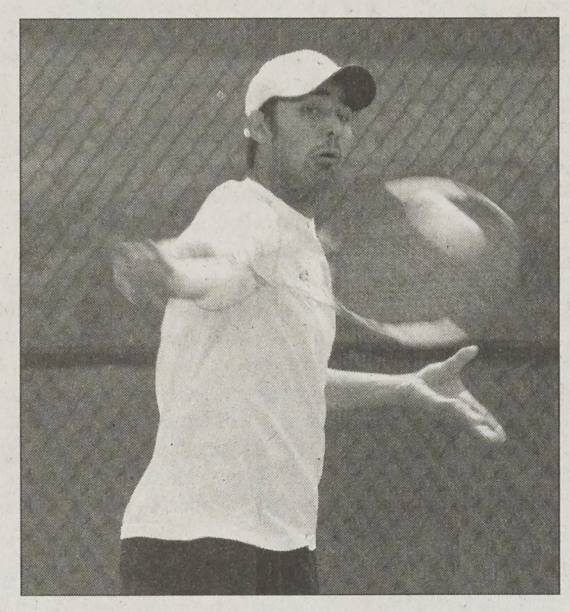
While in Australia, Hossain grabbed a top five national ranking in the under 16 category. He went on to capture three straight state championships in Victoria, Australia, never losing a single set. He broke the record of two straight victories by fellow Aussie, and 1997 US Open champion, Patrick Rafter. Hossain takes pride in the fact that the record still stands.

In January of 2002 Hossain first set foot on American soil. He enrolled at the University of the Pacific where he stayed for one year. Hossain then transferred to Oregon, before finally coming to Sac State in August of 2003.

Hossain's play has made an incredible impact on the team.

"His technique is perfect," assistant coach Jonathan Labella said. "Every stroke he possesses is a

TENNIS: Page B3



Junaid Hossain hits a backhand against Loyola Marymount on April 8. The Hornets won the match 5-2.

Sean Hogan/ State Hornet

Sac State gymnasts picked to 'Stick It'

Three former Hornets hit big screen in new movie

Brad Alexander
State Hornet

Gymnasts are an interesting breed of athlete, they don't play against another team or athlete, they perform. This past summer three former Sacramento State gymnasts received a curtain call to perform in a major motion picture premiering this month in theaters across the country. Touchstone Pictures sifted through hundreds of potential gymnasts who could fit the bill for the movie.



Aeder

"They were looking for girls that looked young and were seniors," Stefanie Aeder said. The actresses needed to be seniors because they could not be currently competitive college athletes.

Aeder, Meloney Greer and Jessica Hoffman, who were picked for small roles in "Stick It," were four-year seniors on the squad that won the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation conference title in 2005. The trio spent last summer in Los Angeles filming for the movie.

GYMNASTICS: Page B4

Second Causeway Cup goes to Hornets

Hornet Staff

The second annual Causeway Cup has been clinched by Sacramento State.

Last year, the first year of the cup, Davis took home the prize.

The cup is awarded to the team that racks up the most points in 18 common sports shared between Davis and Sacramento State.

Currently Sac State has 61.25 points compared to 38.75 for Davis. There are only five points left available.

Despite losing the most visible and storied battle, the Causeway Classic in football, the Hornets were able to take some other big point matches.

CAUSEWAY CUP STANDINGS

Sac State	61.25
UC Davis	38.75

They won both basketball meetings along with volleyball resulting in thirty points for the university.

Last year Davis swept basketball, the turn around resulting in a 40 point swing.

Not only did Sac State take three of the four 10 point matches, they also swept Davis in gymnastics, won both soccer games, women's tennis and rowing.

At the end of fall, the Hornets held a 40-25.5 lead against the rival Aggies.

The cup was clinched when women's tennis won on April 5.

The remaining matchups are a double header in softball at 2 p.m. today in Davis and a baseball game at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday at Hornet Field.



Chris Baad/State Hornet

Mick Joyce gave up one run over 6 innings in Saturday's 6-4 loss to San Jose State at Hornet Field.

Complete Success

Pitcher Mick Joyce has become ace for Hornets

Paul Rice
State Hornet

On March 18 Sacramento State starting pitcher Mick Joyce shut down Utah Valley State, going the full nine innings and allowing just one run, barely breaking a sweat in an easy 7-1 win. For Joyce, it was his third straight complete game victory, and after that string of dominance any question as to who the ace of the Hornets was went out the window. For every pitching staff on a baseball team, there is always one guy who is called upon to be the ace, the pitcher guaranteed to shut down the opponent for a big win. This season, Joyce has done his best to lay claim to that title.

In his first season as a full-time starter in the Hornet rotation, Joyce has broken out, putting up a record of 5-1 with a team-leading 3.09 ERA, while holding opposing hitters to a meager .226 batting average. The Hornet lefty earned victories in his first five decisions and, during one particularly dominant stretch in March, was sporting an ERA that hovered around 1.60. Having been mostly a reliever in his first two seasons on the team, Joyce has made several mental adjustments that have led to his rise toward ace status.

"I've been working with a different pitching philosophy this year," Joyce said. "I used to have problems with trying to outguess hitters, but the more I think, the more I get into trouble. When I try to outthink the hitter, I end up outthinking myself and getting beat. Now

JOYCE: Page B4



JOSH OATES

Politics, athletes a perfect match

These days it seems like the common theme for the American athlete: Play 10 years of pro sports, retire to the mansion for a few years, then head to D.C. to duel it out with your rival political party.

Athletes are everywhere in American government. Nearly every professional sport has at least one former athlete with a prominent political position. The National Football League has U.S. Representatives Steve Largent and JC Watts; Major League Baseball has senator Jim Bunning; and the National Basketball Association has former senator and presidential candidate Bill Bradley.

Sure they use their athletic prowess as an aid, but they push forth their interests just the same as the rest of the politicians, and as the most publicly scrutinized and critiqued figures in America, besides the President, they are a perfect fit for government positions.

In the case of these former athletes turned politicians, the legacy of a successful professional athletic career is used to spawn a successful political campaign. It's easy to conceive that a successful athlete can ride to political success based on his/her athletic reputation, but can political success be found for an unproven quarterback on the most unsuccessful major sports team at a University?

Crosby Wehr believes so. Wehr, a quarterback on the football team and a candidate for ASI Director of Business, is hoping that his standing as an athlete can help lead him to success in the upcoming ASI election.

Wehr lacks a major athletic identity on campus, but he thinks being an athlete at Sac State will only help his campaign.

"I think a small percentage of students at Sac State vote," Wehr explained. "As an athlete I can get other athletes to vote, and gain an advantage in the election."

Wehr said that he wasn't inspired by future political dreams or by any politically charged professional athletes, he simply wants to give Sac State athletes a more prominent voice in the ASI circle.

"I can't even name any athletes in politics off-hand," Wehr said. "Arnold Schwarzenegger, and that's only if you consider bodybuilding a sport."

While Wehr is focused on the upcoming election, he is still looking ahead to next football season.

"For me, a successful football season is more important," he explained. "Success on the field would establish some stature and that would be beneficial to us (the football team) and our school."

If all works out in Wehr's favor, he will be directing business at Sac State on and off the field.

ASI, Athletics finalizing deal

Hornet Staff

Members of the athletics task force, which includes Athletic Director Terry Wanless and ASI President Angel Barajas, met Monday to make updates to the existing athletic contract between the athletics department and ASI.

The contract expired in 1999.

In 1995 Sacramento State students voted on a referendum to increase the financial support of the athletics department. The contract was forged between ASI and the athletics department in order to keep the dictates of that 1995 referendum.

Barajas explained that the contract with athletics is a way to safeguard student interests and ensure that the money that is funneled from students through ASI to the athletic department is spent efficiently. The athletic department currently receives $58.25 from every student each semester. This amounts to roughly $5.6 million a year.

ASI officials had no idea that the original contract, negotiated in after the referendum passed in 1995, had expired in 1999 and were under the impression that it was a rolling contract.

Both parties agree that a lack of communication between the athletics department and ASI caused the confusion.

Barajas had originally told the Hornet that the contract would be finalized by today.

The athletic task force will meet again on May 1. Once completed and agreed upon, the contract will be effective July 1.

CONTRACT HIGHLIGHTS

- Students pay $58.25 each semester.
- Contract will be effective until June 30, 2007 and automatically renews for one-year periods.
- Students are provided 50 percent of total seating capacity and charged no admission for all athletic events held on campus. Does not include post season tournaments or exhibitions.
- Athletics department agrees to achieve at least six year graduation rates for athletes that is equivalent to non-athletes.
- Athletics will make progress toward and achieving gender equity.
- Athletics must provide annual report to ASI.

WEEKLY ROUNDUP

BASEBALL

NEXT: vs Louisiana, Friday, 2 p.m., vs Louisiana, Saturday, 1 p.m., vs Louisiana, Sunday, 1 p.m., vs UC Davis, Tuesday, 2:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK:
Thu, San Jose State 6, Sac State 1
E – Shaffer(3); Keiper, P(6); Rincon, E.(9). DP – Spartans 1; Hornets 1. 2B – Flores, D(8). HR – Giovanatto(2). SB – Hall(13); Strombach, J(8); Rincon, E.(9).
Fri, Sac State 9, San Jose State 7
E – Massman(1); Winck(2). DP – Hornets 3. 2B – Angel(14); Morales, B(8); Flores, D(9). HR – Williammee(1). SB – Flores, D(3); Strombach, J(9).
Sat, San Jose State 6, Sac State 4
E – Morales, B(3); Blauser, B(4). DP – Spartans 1; Hornets 2. 2B – Johnson, G.(9); Cummins, P(2); Morales, B(9); Strombach, J(9); Rincon, E.(1).
Tue, Sac State at Stanford, n

SOFTBALL

NEXT: at UC Davis (2), Today, 2 p.m., at San Diego (2), Saturday, Noon, at San Diego (2), Sunday, Noon.

LAST WEEK:
Wed, Sac State at Stanford, cancelled
Fri, Santa Clara 6, Sac State 2
E – Blier; Tompkins, A.; Crine, B. DP – Hornets 1. 2B – Kabanuck; Caoagan, T. HR – Kabanuck; Clee. CS – Kabanuck.
Fri, Sac State 8, Santa Clara 0 (5)
E – Clee; Loomis, W. 2B – Winkler, L. 2; Tompkins, A.; Schloredt, J; Cinque, N. HR – Ackland, D.(1).
Sat, Santa Clara 1, Sac State 0
E – Brown. 2B – Schloredt, J; Clee.
Sat, Sac State 4, Santa Clara 0
E – Goethals. DP – Hornets 1. 2B – Kabanuck. HR – Winkler, L.(4); Miles, R.(1).

MEN'S TENNIS

NEXT: vs Fresno Pacific, Thursday, 2 pm., at Cal Poly, Saturday, 2 p.m.

LAST WEEK:
Thu, Santa Clara 6, Sac State 0
Fri, Sac State 6, Nevada 1

WOMEN'S TENNIS

NEXT: at Stanford, Thursday, 1:30 p.m.

LAST WEEK:
Sat, Sac State vs South Alabama??
Sun, Fresno State 7, Sac State 0

WOMEN'S ROWING

NEXT: vs Long Beach State, Lake Natoma, Saturday.

LAST WEEK:
Sat, at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships (Oak Ridge, Tenn.)
Varsity Eight Grand Final –
1. Louisville 6:50.7
2. Sacramento State 6:55.2
3. Miami 6:57.2
4. Kansas State 7:00.3
5. Kansas 7:03.18
6. North Carolina 7:10.83

On 2nd Thought.

Passing out NBA hardware ...



ROBERT ALVIS

Kobe Bryant

In a very crowded MVP race, Kobe Bryant stands above the rest. There is only one other justifiable choice and that is LeBron James.

There are guys who have had great seasons, but they aren't MVP grade.

It's interesting how images are formed in the NBA, and despite proof of the opposite they can't be shook.

James, a team guy who makes everyone around him better; and Kobe Bryant, a me-first guy who doesn't care about his teammates.

It's when you look at the numbers you get a very different picture – one of reality.

James doesn't make anyone around him better. Drew Gooden has a career low in scoring; Zydrunas Ilgauskas is scoring less than last year; Damon Jones, Larry Hughes (even before the injury) and Donyell Marshall are all worse off with James. But hey, at least Snow is averaging 4.7 points, up from four last year.

On the flip side, there's Kobe. Smush Parker, better. Chris Mihm, better. Brian Cook, better. Lamar Odom, lower in points, higher in assists and is also shooting a career best from the field.

Kobe has even made Kwame Brown decent. Brown's numbers have improved every month of the season, climaxing with 11.9 points and 8.7 rebounds in April.

If for no other reason than bringing life to the former lottery bust, Bryant should win MVP.

He scored 81, led the league in scoring while shooting a respectable 45 percent and led a team that many felt wouldn't make it to the playoffs.

The other awards should go as follows: Alonzo Mourning for Defensive Player of the Year, Gregg Popovich for Coach of the Year, Chris Paul for Rookie of the Year and Antoine Walker for Sixth Man.



BENN HODAPP

Dirk Nowitzki

Everyone is talking about how this year's MVP race is too close to call. I don't think it is. I think it is quite easy.

Nash won't win because he won it last year despite the fact that he is deserving.

Kobe Bryant, nope. Moving on.

Chauncey Billups has been the playmaker for the league's best team, but that doesn't make him a candidate. You have to be a player who is indispensable to a team and would die a painful death without you. The Pistons would have won 50 games without Billups.

Elton Brand is another player in the MVP talks. I think he should get recognition for his part in turning around the worst franchise in the history of sports. Without Brand the Clippers would win eight games. Yes, eight games.

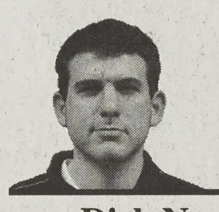
That leaves two players. LeBron James and Dirk Nowitzki. Both of these players are absolutely critical to their team's success. Take both players away from their team and the Mavs would be better than the Cavs, but the fact remains that with both players the same is still true.

LeBron's numbers make me all warm and fuzzy inside. James' averages of 31.4 points, 7.0 rebounds and 6.6 assists is just the stupidest thing I've seen since Barry Bonds cried like a complete tool on his reality show.

Dirk is the best player on what I feel has been the Western Conference's best team.

He has established career highs almost across the board and is probably the most skilled player in the NBA in terms of how many different shots he has. Without him the Mavs might be good enough to sneak into the playoffs, but they would be a lost cause come May. Vote for Dirk.

The other awards should go as follows: Ron Artest for Defensive Player of the Year, Byron Scott will win Coach of the Year, Chris Paul will obviously win Rookie of the Year and Sixth Man will be former King Eddie House.



PAUL RICE

Dirk Nowitzki

I can't remember a year in which so many players were MVP-worthy. I can name at least ten players who could, in most other seasons, be called runaway MVPs, but this season there are a bunch of guys having stellar years worthy of consideration. For the prize, though, I've got to go with the Diggler, Dirk Nowitzki, Dallas' awesome power forward.

Dirk has been an absolute terror this year, destroying small defenders in the post and blowing by bigger guys for dunks. He's averaging 27 points per game on 48 percent shooting, 41 percent three-point shooting, and 90% from the free throw line. Just sick. He is the reason the Mavs are neck-and-neck with the Spurs for the best record in the Western Conference. While Kobe gets the talk because he's averaging more points per game, he also takes way more shots while shooting for lower percentages across the board. Dirk isn't even averaging 20 shots a game, which makes his feats that much more amazing.

The fact that he's a seven-footer with guard skills, can drive by defenders and shoot from three point range makes him absolutely impossible to guard. The move where he drives into the lane, head fakes defenders into the air and drops in the soft 15-footer is one of the most beautiful things in basketball. And his defense has improved to the point where he's no longer a sieve, so he's not scoring twenty while giving up thirty anymore.

The other awards should go as follows: Chris Paul has left his groin-punching ways behind at Wake Forest to become the no-brainer Rookie of the Year. Mike D'Antoni wins Coach of the Year for again turning an undersized Suns team into a fast-break terror. Shareef Abdur-Rahim wins Sixth Man.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's tennis falls to Huskies

HORNET STAFF

The No. 58 Sacramento State women's tennis lost at Washington 4-3 on Sunday.

No. 76-ranked Margarita Karnaukhova beat Washington's Victoria Brymer in the No. 1 singles spot 6-4, 6-3 to lead the Hornets.



Karnaukhova

Hornet Cecilia Helland also won her singles match.

The Huskies took the doubles point to start the day and then took three of the five singles points that were played. Sac State picked up an extra singles point by default in the No. 6 spot.

Sac State is now 12-7 on the season.

They will finish the regular season at No. 1 Stanford Thursday.

Rowing places second

Sacramento State women's rowing took home a silver medal at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships in Oak Ridge, Tenn., on Saturday.

The varsity eight finished second in a time of 6:55.2, trailing only Louisville at 6:50.7.

The Hornets second varsity eight took fourth in their race. Sac State's next race will come Saturday at Lake Natoma when they host Long Beach State. The Hornets are riding a 21-0 streak in dual meets dating back to 2003.

Gymnastics coaches honored

In their 20th season together, gymnastics coaches Kim Hughes and Randy Solorio won the West Region Coach and assistant Coach of the Year. The National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches presented the award.

Hughes previously won the award in 1999.

Track splits for weekend

Sacramento State's track and field teams will be splitting the squad this weekend to take part in two events, the Woody Wilson Invitational in Davis and the Oregon Invitational in Eugene.

Last weekend, Melissa Tracey won the 400-meter hurdles at the Brutus Hamilton Invitational at Cal with a time of 61.23 leading the Hornets.

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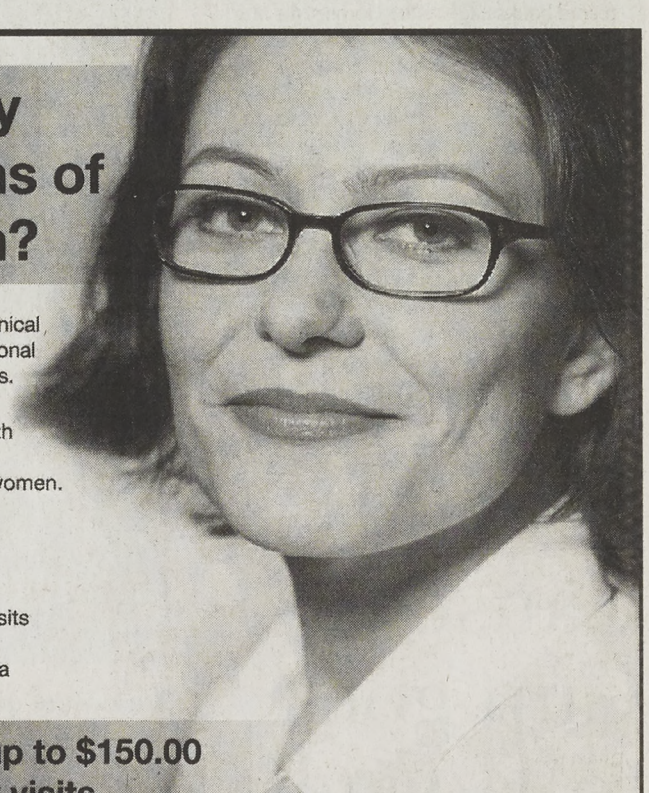
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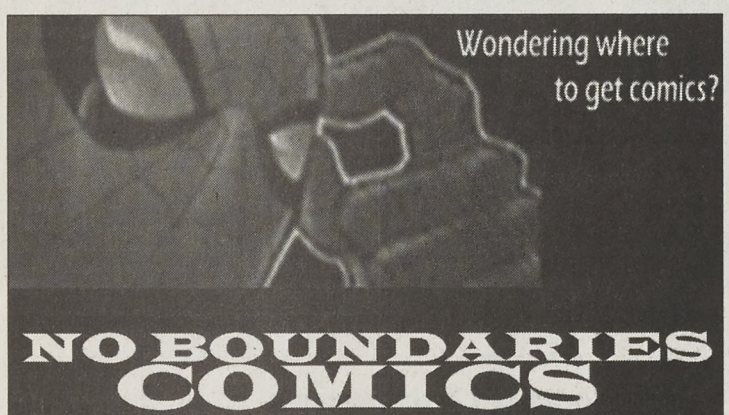
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ANDREW NIXON/STATE HORNET
Amy Tompkins went 3-for-3 in the 8-0 second game win against Santa Clara on Friday.

Hornets replaying same script

Another strong series has Lindy Winkler hitting .433 for year

JOHN PARKER
State Hornet

Groundhog Day was more than two months ago but lately Kathy Strahan has been waking up to relive the same nightmare.

The Sacramento State softball coach has witnessed an identical pattern of play since the beginning of Pacific Coast Softball Conference play: Play flat in the first game only to come back and dominate the second. This weekend's four-game series with Santa Clara which Strahan and players agreed they should have won will go down as a mere split in the record books and has the Hornets sitting at 4-4 in the PCSC in a third place tie with the Broncos.

For a team that was picked to finish second in the PCSC preseason coaches poll and league insiders thought could win, the splits have been painful.

"We can't play .500 ball and expect to win this conference," Strahan said.

The Hornets have been outscored 14-2 in first games of PCSC doubleheaders and have outscored opponents 24-5 in the nightcaps. The gross disparity has been perplexing for all involved.

"We need to figure it out," Strahan said.

A bright spot in that pattern has been the performance of freshman pitcher Cassie Cervantes. Cervantes (10-4) is undefeated against conference competition at 4-0 and sports a 0.78 ERA as opposing hitters have mustered just a .124 average.

Sac State sits in a third-place tie with Santa Clara behind league-leading Portland State (24-12, 5-0) and San Diego (18-16, 6-2). Defending league-champion Loyola Marymount (22-16, 2-3) – which had three games at Portland State rained out over the weekend – is directly behind the Hornets in fifth followed by St. Mary's (4-35, 0-8).

The Hornets next travel to San Diego for what figures to be a pivotal series with the Toreros. Both doubleheaders on Saturday and Sunday are scheduled to begin at noon. No Internet simulcast is available for the games but San Diego's Web site (www.usdtoreros.com) offers a Gametracker feed for all home games.

"We need to take care of our own business (in San Diego and at St. Mary's) and take care of Portland State when they're up here," Strahan said.

Heavy hitters

In the Hornet's game two win on Saturday freshman third baseman Rachel Miles became part of a growing club this season clubbing her first career home run. Miles is the fourth Sac State player to hit her first homer in 2006 joining the likes of senior center fielder Lindy Winkler, senior pitcher Nikki Cinque and sophomore shortstop Amy Tompkins.

"It felt good to finally get one," said Miles, who came into the season with the reputation of a power hitter from her days at Center High where she played under current Sac State coach Lori Meixner. "I had to tell myself to slow down and get into the trot."

Winkler went yard later in that game to give Sac State 22 team home runs for the season – already six more than the program record and more than the last four years combined.

Continued dominance

Winkler continued her stellar year with an impressive performance against Santa Clara. The senior from San Andreas combined to go 7-for-11 with a home run, three RBIs and five runs scored.

"I'm continually impressed by Lindy's abilities," Strahan said. "She's constantly getting hits, running the bases and scoring runs for us."

Winkler is undoubtedly having the finest season of her career batting .433 (.542 in conference) and with a two-RBI single in the second game on Sunday tied her career high in RBIs with 15. The slender center fielder hadn't hit a home run coming into 2006 and has clubbed four so far this season.

Missing in action

Sophomore left fielder Hilary Johnson did not play in the Santa Clara series because of a sprained left meniscus she suffered on April 8 at Loyola Marymount.

Johnson said she tweaked the knee running into a base and continued to play on it that weekend but when the team got home it swelled up and kept her out of some practices.

"It always sucks to sit and watch and not be able to do anything on the field," Johnson said. "I've been doing what I can to cheer everyone on and keep them up."

Johnson is currently third on the team in batting average at .327 and consistently hit in the No. 2 slot behind Winkler before the injury. Johnson and Strahan both said they expect her to return for this weekend's series at San Diego.

John Parker can be reached at
johnparker@statehornet.com

Hornets end two-match skid

HORNET STAFF

After losing its last two matches, the men's tennis team took down Nevada 6-1 on Friday.

The win brought the Hornets record to 12-8 overall.

Junaid Hossain and Gabriel Loredo continued their solid doubles play with a 8-3 win over Nevada's Guillaume Tonelli and Milos Popovic at the No. 1.

Hornets Ramon Perez and Warwick Foy were also victorious in doubles with an 8-5 win over Eldar Dzhafarov and Rafal Stupka.

The Wolf Pack's only win of the day came in No.1 singles as Tonelli beat Hossain 6-3, 6-3.

Loredo beat Popovic 6-2, 6-3 at the No. 2 spot.

Foy, Thomas Morton and Hague Van Dillen also won singles matches with Perez getting a default victory.

The Hornets last home match is at 2 p.m. Thursday at the Rio Del Oro Raquet Club.

They will then hit the road to play their last regular season match at Cal Poly on Saturday before the Big Sky Championships.

TENNIS: Injury forced an early exit

Continued from B1

weapon. He is basically like a professional."

He has been counted on since to help guide the team to wins with his big forehand and even bigger serve. Fellow senior Thomas Morton can attest to Hossain's powerful game.

"He has an innate ability to hit people with the ball," Morton said laughing. "It doesn't matter if he's in one far corner and you're in another, you are going to get hit."

In 2005, an injury to Hossain derailed the Hornets' chances of winning a conference title. He broke a metatarsal in his left foot during practice. He was told it was just a sprain, so he continued to play on it. As the pain continued he went to get another X-ray, where the doctor told him that he should not even be walking on the broken foot.

Not even the Vicodin he was taking for the pain could keep him afloat for the conference tournament. Hossain risked permanent and career-ending injury to play in the tournament. In the championship match, however, the injury got the better of him.

"I was actually on the court warming up when the trainer came and told me I couldn't play," Hossain said. The Hornets went on to lose the championship match 4-0 to defending champion Montana State.

Hossain and Gabriel Loredo have teamed up this season to go 17-2 at No. 1 doubles, creating a huge boost to the team all year long. Watching the two of them on the court it is easy to see why they are so successful.

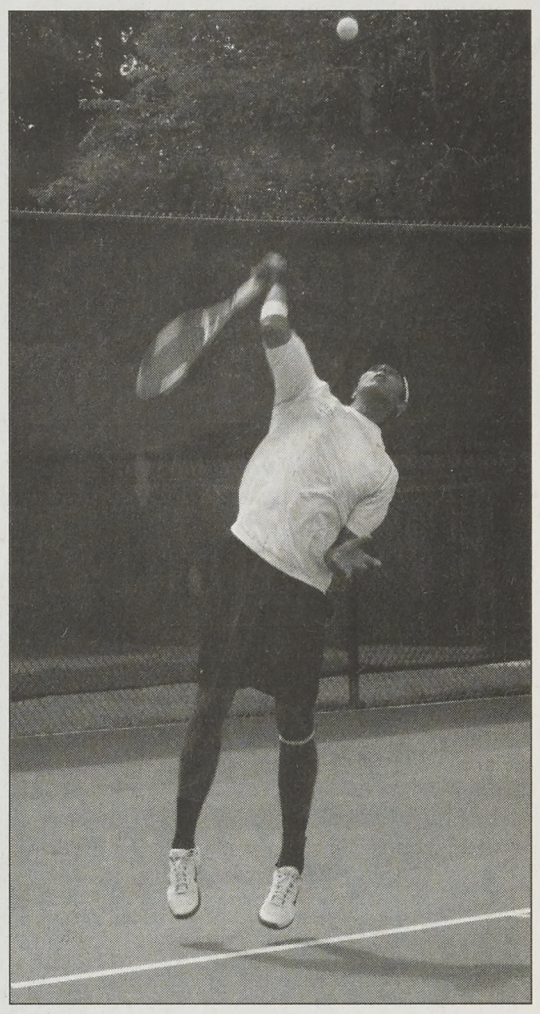
"We have really good chemistry on the court," Loredo said. "We have a good relationship and we play basically as one person." The pair's strong record has left its mark on the rest of the team.

"Their success has had a good effect on the rest of the team," Labella said. "The other guys see them working so hard that it makes them play harder as well."

Hossain's abilities aren't confined to the court. He is an electrical engineering major who works hard in order to achieve his future goals. "I'd like to eventually work in the Silicon Valley on computers," he said.

His day consists of school from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., then it's off to tennis practice for two hours, and then it's time for studying. A life of school-practice-books-bed has been hard on him, but he takes it all in stride. "It's been hard work, but it paid off when I got a 4.0 last semester."

Sac State sits in second place in the Big Sky conference, poised to make a run at the title with a healthy Hossain on the court. Maybe he can exit the game just as he entered… as a champion.

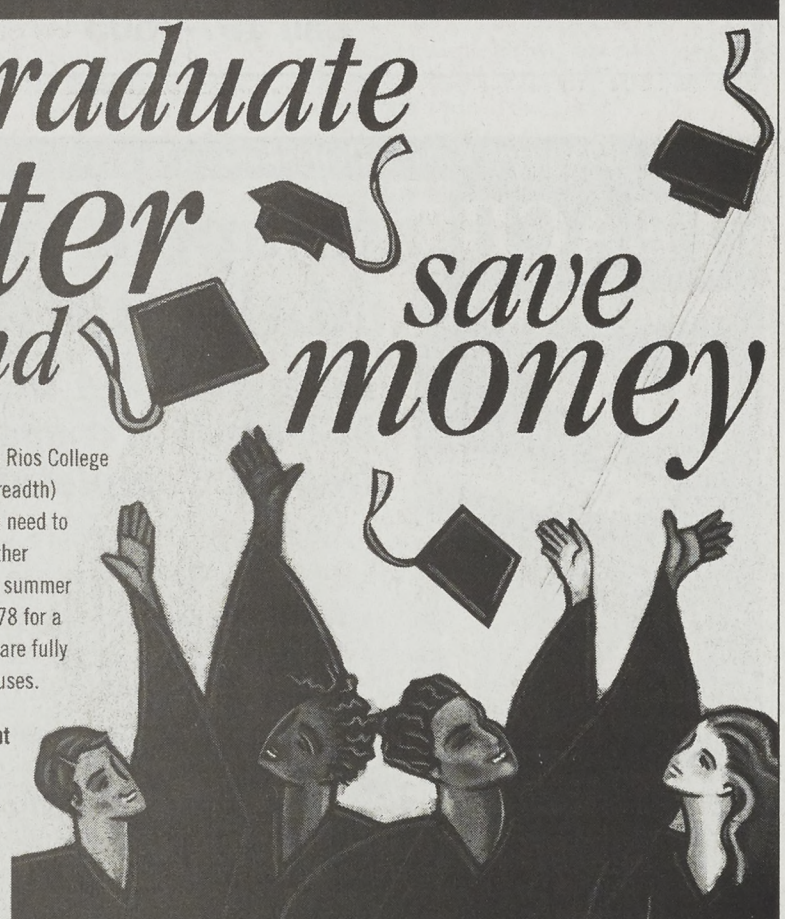


SEAN HOGAN/STATE HORNET
Junaid Hossain won in doubles but lost in singles Saturday against Nevada.

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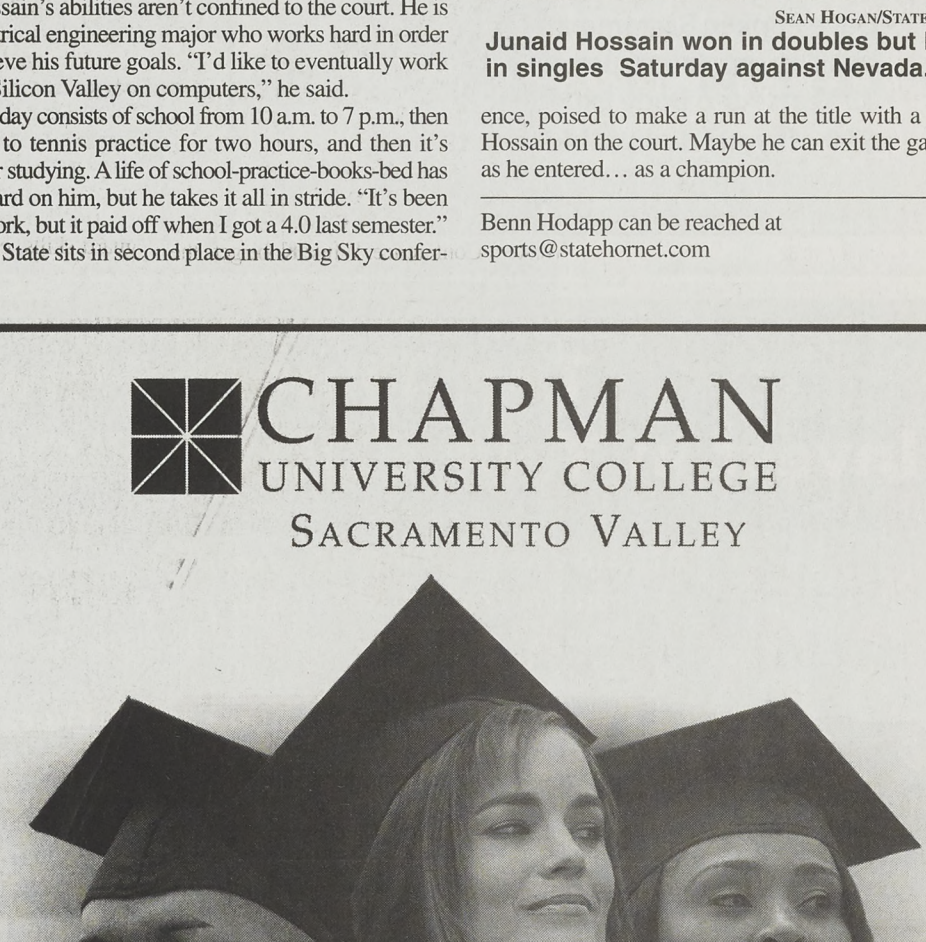
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Basketball signs guard

ROBERT ALVIS
State Hornet

Men's basketball continued a trend last week with the signing of 6-foot Chris Hart.

The Hornets signed four guards last season, and now, with the signing of Hart, they have inked two more for next season.

Hart, a guard, averaged 10.8 points and 3.7 assists last season at Long Beach City College.

"He played on a fairly good team last year," coach Jerome Jenkins said. "When he got in he changed the complexion of the game."

The team looks now as if they are filled in at the guard and swingman positions.

The Hornets have already signed 6-foot-5 swingman Tristan Wilson of Apollo High School in Glendale, Ariz. Jenkins said he hopes Wilson will be able to produce right away.

"I would like him to come in and play right away," said Jenkins, who did not rule out redshirting Wilson. "We want to get everyone in here and let them compete (for spots)."

The signing of Hart and Wilson, coupled with Kris Groce's first year of eligibility after sitting out a season because of NCAA transfer rules, Sac State now has just two players on the roster more than 6-foot-6, junior Randy Adams and freshman Stephen Colvin, who was a redshirt last season.

Jenkins said recruiting size is more difficult, but that the team is now looking in that direction.

Last season, Jenkins would often go small, playing junior Davon Roberts (6-foot-6) or junior Justin Williams (6-foot-6) at center. That strategy took the Hornets to a 15-15 record along with a first round playoff win in the Big Sky Conference Championships.

The Hornets were last in the conference in rebound margin at minus-six, but were first in turnover margin last year.

The Hornets lost three of their four tallest players at the end of last season with the departure of Chris Lange (6-8), Aaron Perry (6-8) and Zane Beekman (6-9).

Robert Alvis can be reached at Sports@statehornet.com

SIGNEES

Chris Hart
6-0 – Guard – Long Beach City College

Tristan Wilson
6-5 – Swingman – Apollo High School

JOYCE: He's turned in his bat

Continued from B1

I just try to keep the ball low and hit spots, go with what the coaches call. I know that I don't need to throw it by guys to get them out. If (the batters) hit a good pitch, they hit it, what can you do?"

Joyce, a Temecula native and a junior communications major, has been playing baseball since the age of six, when he was playing tee-ball. In Little League, Joyce began taking pitching lessons from his local high school coach, and his mound repertoire began to develop. Despite playing a lot of outfield throughout high school (and even in college), Joyce made the decision to dump the bat and become a full time pitcher last season.

"I decided that if you focus on just one thing," he said, "you'll have more success."

Despite being a starter throughout high school, Joyce began his Sac State career mostly coming out of the bullpen. This season he was given an opportunity in the starting rotation, and he took off.

"Mick wanted to start this year," pitching coach Jim Barr said. "He knew he was ready. The biggest change (from last year) has been his mental attitude. He's always had the ability, now he developed the right attitude out there. He had to accept it and take it upon himself to take it to the next level. Some individuals never buy into it or only buy into it for one or two starts. Mick stayed mentally focused and bought into it the whole time."

Joyce's teammates have also noticed the change in his attitude on the mound, although not just in terms of focus, but in all-around toughness. At a level where many pitchers work hitters away, Joyce is not afraid to bust hitters inside or even high and tight.

"Mick has been the one pitcher I've seen who'll throw inside a lot, brush people back," first baseman Brian Blauser said. "I know he's never been afraid to put one in my ribs in practice."

Joyce's success this season has given his teammates the kind of confidence in him that you would expect to go toward an ace pitcher. When Joyce takes the mound, his teammates expect victory.

"You definitely know he's going to give it his all when he's out there," catcher Buddy Morales said. "We know if we don't score a lot of runs it's okay, because he's going to go out there and give us a chance to win. He's going to do his job and shut down hitters."

Joyce is quick to deflect a lot of his success on the tutelage of his coaches, who are now calling pitch sequences from the dugout, a development Joyce said has helped his game immensely. He said without the help of the coaching staff, he would never have made that next step up.

"I'd say that much of my success is due to them," Joyce said. "My coaches have taught me to throw to my strengths, not to throw to the hitter. They gave me a shot, and I owe a lot to them."

Paul Rice can be reached at sports@statehornet.com

GYMNASTICS: Schedule included early mornings, late nights on set

Continued from B1

"We were all basically background gymnasts," Aeder said. "It was probably the greatest summer I've ever had… I got into gymnastics because I like people watching me perform and it wasn't that different. It was something completely different that I will ever get to do in my entire life."

The ladies faced a rigorous schedule, waking up at 6 a.m. everyday while getting swept from their hotels to spending many hours pacing around the set until called on. These long filming days would usually last until late into the night, after doing the same scene over and over again until the crew was satisfied.

Aeder, Greer and Hoffman spent their spare time getting to know the other gymnasts on the set, including: Tiffany Chan and Nicole Doherty from UC Davis, Jennifer Greene from San Jose State and 2004 Athens Olympian Carly Patterson. Actor Jeff Bridges, coach Burt Vickerman in the film, also spent time in between scenes getting to know the ladies better. The entire experience was a bit surreal for the trio, but familiar at the same time.

"It was overwhelming at first, they were expecting a lot out of us. When we were asked to perform on different events we would just do our usual routines," Greer said. Those routines were the same they performed at Sac State meets during their careers.

On Thursday Aeder, Greer and Hoffman went down to the Burbank Studios to watch "Stick It." The three former Sac State gymnasts play small roles in the film and watched the premiere with the entire cast and crew.

"It was kind of weird seeing our faces up their on the big screen," Aeder said. "It was like a big reunion seeing everyone again."

"Stick It," based on an rebel gymnast who gets in trouble with the cops and finds her way back to the top, is expected to be in theaters on April 28.

Brad Alexander can be reached at sports@statehornet.com

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Middle school friends band together

"He was optimistic, always looking on the bright side of things. I like to take that approach to life,"

Blake Spurlock, Lynus guitarist on the 'Peanuts' character Linus, by whom the band's name is inspired

'Peanuts' blanket-lover inspires Lynus name

FRANK MILLER
State Hornet

The first and only time the band members of Lynus trashed a hotel room, they did so to get back at the women who gave them the room.

Dragged out of their room at 3 a.m. by the drunken older women in "dingy white underwear," they were begged for 45 minutes to get in a murky hot tub. After a guilt trip by the women, the guys returned to their room.

"The room smelled like someone had died," said guitar player Blake Spurlock, 19. "Come to find out it was rotting chicken underneath the bed."

They found the chicken after they retaliated by smashing apples in the bathroom and rubbing roast beef into the carpet.

"We wouldn't have done it in any other town," said lead singer Joe Senna, 20. "But they deserved it."

The band, which will perform at noon today at Serna Plaza outside of the University Union, formed when all of the members were in middle school. Spurlock, Senna and drummer Minh Ngo, 19, were in the seventh grade and bass player Jason Brown, 21, was in the eighth grade.

A talent show at the school provided the motive for them to form, but once they started "it was all about making music," Senna said.

For a short time, in the beginning of the band's existence, there was a fifth, older member who sang and called the band Penhead. However, when things didn't work out with their singer, they fired him via instant message and went back to being Lynus.

Senna's mother came up with the idea for the name Lynus, like the "Peanuts" character only spelled differently. They changed the I to a Y for "a little seventh grade spice," Spurlock said.

"He was optimistic, always looking on the bright side of things," Senna said of the character. "I like to take that approach to life, I guess."

At first, the band met about once a week, playing when they could get their parents to give them a ride to practice. They started off playing covers of songs by Nirvana, Third Eye Blind and Bush for the first year and then transitioned to Blink 182 and Lagwagon. Towards

LYNUS: Page B7



COURTESY PHOTO/LYNUS

Drummer Minh Ngo, guitarist Blake Spurlock, lead singer Joe Senna and bass player Jason Brown make up the indie-pop band Lynus.



PETER MCCOLLOUGH/STATE HORNET

Sophomore nutrition and food major Megan Browder, left, holds Sabha Bennett, and senior health science major Marcela Castro, right, holds Aisling Bennett in front of Max Vandessel on April 5 at the Bennett household. Natashal Vandessel lays in the middle of the room.

DAY CARE DUTY

Student nannies balance school with child care

ELAINE WELTEROTH
State Hornet

It's noon. After countless foul diaper changes, you are now cleaning up the mess from today's snack, "ants on a log," with a crying baby in your arm. While scouring the carpet for slobbery, peanut-buttery raisin morsels, you find yourself thinking about the final you have tomorrow morning.

The thought is interrupted by the all too familiar, deafening screeches of a toddler belting out a rendition of "The Song That Never Ends" while defacing the living room wall with a red Crayola in hand. Admit it, this is the nightmare that comes to mind for most of us when we combine the stress-encompassing words: student and nanny.

However, the sentiment among some of Sacramento State's student nannies seems to be quite the contrary.

Newbie-nanny Megan Browder revealed the life of a student-nanny is a lot less stressful than popular belief.

"I was hesitant at first about getting into the nanny thing because it's given such a bad rap, but I've been a nanny for a couple months now and I love it," said Browder, a sophomore nutrition and food major. "I already feel a part of the family."

Browder, who has worked mostly in retail and clerical positions, found the transition to working as an in-home nanny to be smooth and virtually stress-free; admitting it doesn't even feel like work sometimes.

"Somehow all the stress of school, and everything that I have to do, just kind of goes away and I don't think about it while I'm with the kids," Browder said. "Whereas with other jobs, it's all still there and building."

The highlight of her experience as a nanny thus far, the moment Browder said she will never forget, was the first time the 2-year-old she takes care of told her he loved her.

"I took him to ride the carousel at the mall, and then dropped him off at home," Browder said. "As I was getting ready to go home, he got so upset that he started tossing his toys at me. He wouldn't answer me when I asked him what was wrong.

"But right before I left the room, he looked at me with tear-filled eyes and in this really fussy voice he said, 'I love you.'"

Being a student nanny isn't for everyone.

CHILDREN: Page B6

Sexcapades

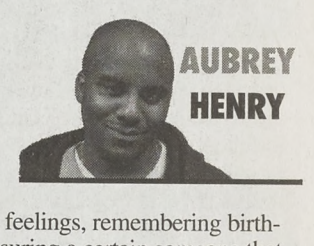
Keeping benefits among friends

I have a healthy, what I'll call "normal," sexual attitude for a man in his late 20s. I'll sum it up with one of my favorite clichés:

Get it while the getting's good.

And like I imagine many young men in the prime of their lives do, I venture out into the world each day with a tiny Brit-inflected voice in the back of my head encouraging me: "Get it you shall Aubrey, heh heh."

At this juncture in my life, I'm honest enough with myself to say it's sex and not a relationship with sex that I really need, er want. I'm OK with that. I'm a very busy man, and my needs don't include attending to feelings, remembering birthdays or reassuring a certain someone that she is indeed a pretty tulip. At this juncture in my life, any of those scenarios would likely make me wretch … violently. Ahem. Too busy … too tired … too much.



Enter the wonderful "friends with benefits" (FWB) package. For the price of the most basic level of friendship (you can remember a name and number), and perhaps the occasional six-pack of beer/bottle of wine, you too can enjoy spine-popping, toe-curling, heart attack-inducing sex. You can have it all without the hassle of commitment or emotions. (Cue triumphant musical theme.)

I can hear the morality police climbing over themselves to get to the World War II era alarm crank now. Get over it, America. While our country's current administration would likely prefer any man checking "single" on their tax forms to being able to define a clitoris, I personally believe a

HENRY: Page B6

Latin Jazz Ensemble tip of iceberg for criminal justice major, musician

ALEESA CAMAGONG
State Hornet

With a baseball cap placed securely on his head, a bright smile glowing across his round face, and an attitude so humble and modest, it's difficult to imagine Aaron Routtenberg as anything more than a typical college student. After all, that's what it seems like on the surface.

Beyond the 15-unit schedule and part-time job at Wells Fargo, Routtenberg is surrounded by music.

The 19-year-old sophomore is a part of three local bands in Sacramento that perform all over Northern California. He plays the bongos for Conquista Musical, is the lead singer and percussionist for the salsa band Orquesta Afinque, and plays the timbales, a small pair of shallow drums, for Sac State's Latin Jazz Ensemble. Besides those three bands he's involved with more groups in his hometown of Los Angeles.

"It's a lot but I love doing it," Routtenberg said with a laugh. "I don't sleep much."

Routtenberg still finds time to squeeze in three and a half to four hours of rehearsal time (each Tuesday to Thursday night) with work on Mondays and Wednesdays and a school schedule from 10:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"It's definitely more than half of my time and that's not even including my private practice at home," Routtenberg said. "That takes up a lot of time too."

Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays are usually his performance days, with gigs occurring almost every weekend. Two weekends a month he's out of town.

"It's definitely like a second job, sometimes a first job," Routtenberg said.

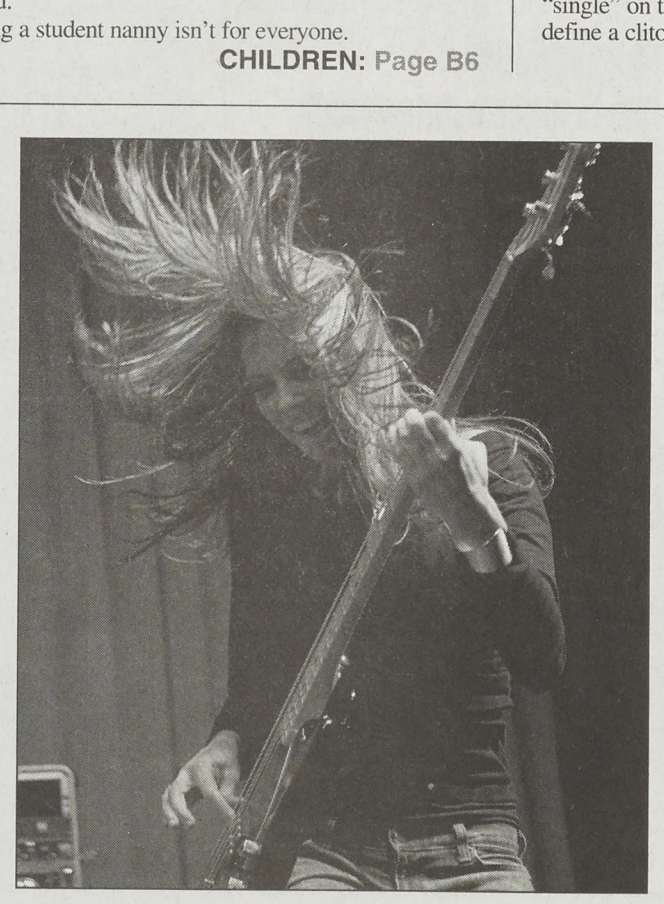
There's that and then some.

He is also endorsed by two companies, TIMBA percussion and UNIGRIP sticks, which provide him with the equipment he needs to perform.

"Whenever I perform, I have to be playing their drums and using their sticks because I'm on a contract with them," Routtenberg said. "So I promote them to everyone else."

Routtenberg travels to different places with his LA bands, noting that he's been almost everywhere. "I've been blessed with where I've been able to go."

ROUTTENBERG: Page B7



JAM STAND

Allison Johnson, bass player for Headrush, lights up the stage at a noon performance on Wednesday in the Redwood Room. Headrush's first full-length album, "The Weight of the Water," will be released sometime later this year.

PETER McCOLLOUGH
STATE HORNET

CHILDREN: Senior cautions newbies about 'nanny rut'

Continued from B5

"In order to be a student nanny, you have to be really responsible and dependable," Browder said. "Not only are you solely responsible for the care and safety of other people's children, but you can't just call in sick, or have someone cover a shift."

For college students interested in a position as a nanny, commitment and stability are key.

For more than three years, nanny jobs have put Devon Buckley through school. The senior business management major and veteran student-nanny agreed the job's play-time benefits are big-time stress relievers for even the most frazzled students.

"What college student do you know, gets paid to sit and color with little kids and completely escape the adult world?" Buckley teasingly said.

Buckley was explicit in her warning about juniors and seniors falling into the "nanny rut," a term she coined describing the point where the job becomes more of a comfort zone than a benefit to a future career.

"It's best to look into being a nanny within the freshmen and sophomore years," Buckley said. "Once you get stuck in the nanny rut and don't plan on going into child care, it can really put you at a disadvantage when you're ready to enter the job market."

Mia Masters has considered working as a nanny because of the work experience relevant to her aspirations of owning her own pre-school and day care.

"I think it would be really interesting to spend time with children in the comfort of their own home and get to have an impact on how they interact in the outside world," Masters, a junior child development major, said. "It would offer me the best of both worlds."

Buckley shared some of the ground rules she uses to maintain a healthy balance between work and school. It is important to declare at least two "no call" days per week for schoolwork and to also request a two month notice for requesting additional shifts that may interfere with school.

Marcela Castro, a senior health science major, looks after twin infants. She said she finds plenty of time for schoolwork while the babies rest at nap-time.

"My schedule is very flexible with working around school," Castro said. "I have weekends off. I can usually get some homework done at work, plus the work environment is really low-stress, relaxing and fun."

Castro has worked with the infants since they were two weeks old and now, more than five months later, she had nothing but good things to say about her job. Castro said the best part is watching their development and being able to catch all of their "firsts."

This kind of perfect match cannot be entirely attributed to the forces of fate.

Susan O'Hara, a new mother of twins, decided to seek the help of a nanny in early October and found Castro to be a perfect fit.

"We were looking for someone young, with a lot of energy; someone very warm, who would connect with our girls, without becoming flustered easily," O'Hara, an assistant professor of teacher education, said. "All of these things were apparent when meeting Marcela for the first time."

Castro was O'Hara and her husband's first of 11 interviews. The new parents considered themselves lucky to have had such a smooth hiring process for their nanny who they say has been, "absolutely wonderful."

This match made in heaven can actually be attributed to modern technology. Both Castro and O'Hara entered their information into an online nanny agency called "A Nanny on the Net." The agency works with families and nannies internationally, setting applicants up with compatible matches.

"The application asked really direct questions and was so easy to fill out," Castro said. "Within a few days I was already receiving calls about positions."

According to Annie McInnis, the Sacramento Region Director for "A Nanny on the Net," the majority of nanny applicants are college-aged, between 18 to 26 years old. She credited the job's popularity among the college crowd to its flexibility. There are certain qualifications to go through the agency.

"Nanny applicants are required to have a least three years of childcare experience and to become certified in CPR and first-aid," McInnis said.

Browder, Buckley and Castro all agreed that the good pay, flexible hours and stress relief they enjoy as student-nannies far surpasses the fringe benefits of most other college jobs.

It turns out that being a student-nanny isn't a nightmare after all.

For more information on how to find a nanny in your area, check out www.anannyonthenet.com

Elaine Welteroth can be reached at features@statehornet.com



HENRY: Writer urges partners to be upfront before sealing the deal

Continued from B5

large number of people not only think about sex daily, but (gasp) enjoy doing it. Sexual sophistication, in terms of attitude, is one thing France does have on the U.S. — freedom fries notwithstanding.

Guys want gals, gals want guys, and we all deserve what we want, right? Forgive me for not thinking about gumdrop waterfalls, magical rainbows and undying love when I think about sex. There are plenty of people out there that feel the same way. I've met them.

A FWB situation contains all the elements of your average verbal contract. A typical FWB contract reads thusly:

"I (name here) understand this contract is verbally binding under the stipulation forgoing the ritualistic series of events typically preceding sexual relations. I hereby forfeit all rights and privileges associated with emotion-based relationships of exclusivity."

Simple, isn't it? I can't for the life of me understand why so many people (particularly women) get the contractual details mucked up. In layman's terms, nobody can be upset or cry foul about a FWB situation on the basis of feelings. This goes for guys too.

If people would just listen the contract, no one would end up getting hurt, feeling upset or wondering how they got "used." All of those grievances are emotion-based, and the contract explicitly states emotions are not permitted.

In any discussion on attitudes and society it's important to include more than just the attitude. So questioning some open young women and men was a must.

Tania, a 19-year-old child development major at Sac State, said she couldn't participate in a FWB situation because she gets "emotionally attached" when things get physical.

"I personally don't like it, but if somebody else wants to do it go right ahead," she said. "I think (not getting attached) can be done, sort of like 'Sex and the City.'"

As long as people who know they aren't right for a FWB agreement situation stick to their guns, then they'll never become one of the post-FWB stories I simply have no sympathy. The attitudes about FWB seem to become a little more relaxed with each increase in age.

ONLINE
Check statehornet.com for a woman's prespective on friends with benefits, by staff writer Jessica Rojo

Lauren, a 22-year-old senior family-consumer science major, said whether or not a FWB situation works "depends on the situation itself."

"If there's a mutual agreement that it's all 'fun and games;' it's OK," she said. "Even though you may be trying to find Mr. Right, people tend to need that person you go to in those dry periods. Even though you have an agreement, you've got to know that eventually it's going to stop, and hopefully you'll end up finding something more serious."

Rochelle, a 30-year-old California State worker, said FWB is "a great thing" so long as both parties understand the situation.

"You need to accept 'friends with benefits' as just that," she warned. "One person will always end up making more out of it (feelings wise) than the other. The older I've gotten, the easier it is to separate the feelings. At 20, I said 'He's not looking for a relationship because he just met me.' You think you can change guys."

She responded to the question of whether a romantically hopeful party could possibly change the other's mind in a FWB situation with a poker-faced "Hell no."

Eschewing the predictable stereotype of men only caring about sex was Paul, a 21-year-old health sciences junior who describes himself as "a commitment guy."

"I think sex should remain intimate and friends with benefits is more recreational," he said. "Somewhere down the line somebody's gonna develop feelings and get hurt. Stereotypically, the girl gets feelings for the guy. A lot of guys are like, 'Why pay for the cow when you can get the milk for free?'"

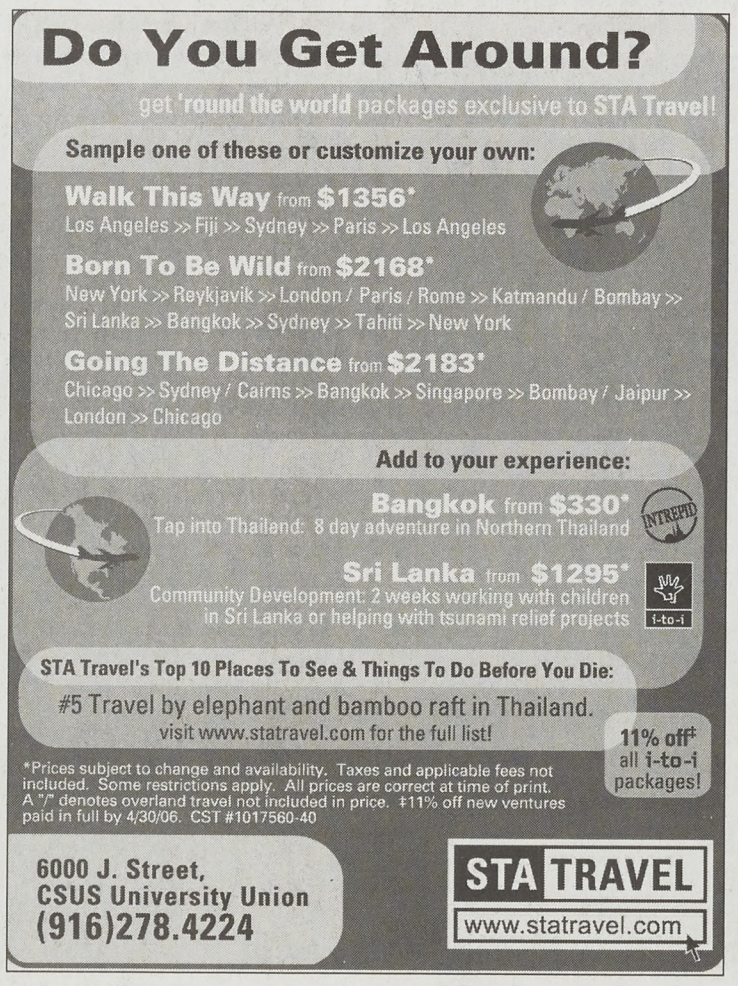
As long as people enjoy sex, it's going to happen. Sometimes it's going to occur outside of the definition of what may be looked at as a "real relationship." The least we can do as people is be honest with ourselves about it. It's good to have ideals, but if a deep emotional commitment isn't what you want, it's only right you make sure whoever's on the other side of the equation knows the deal, before you seal the deal. I feel there's nothing wrong with a little responsible fun among friends. Honesty, communication and protection are all musts. Trojans are one thing, but protection also includes your, as well as your partner's, heart.

Aubrey Henry can be reached at features@statehornet.com









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NICHOLAS AVEY/STATE HORNET

Aaron Routtenberg, a sophomore criminal justice major, sings with Orquesta Afinque at Club Caribe. The 19-year-old Los Angeles native also plays the bongos for Conquista Musical and the timbales for Sac State's Latin Jazz Ensemble.

ROUTTENBERG: His family has long line of musicians

Continued from B5

He names the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre as his favorite venue because "it's just beautiful. It's outdoors, very intimate setting… really nice."

With music being such a huge part of his life, it's only natural that he'd major in it as well. Surprisingly, Routtenberg is declaring criminal justice as his major.

"It's something to fall back on," Routtenberg said. "I am a musician and I will try to make a living doing that, but if it doesn't work out I'd like to fall back on something pretty stable."

Raised in Los Angeles, Routtenberg decided to come to Sac State after high school when he found out about the school's music department.

"I applied here as a fall-back, then I realized they have a really good music program," Routtenberg said. "They have the Latin Jazz Ensemble and a lot of the colleges I applied to didn't have anything to do with Latin jazz. That's one of the main reasons why I came out here, so I can take part in that."

A professional musician since the 7th grade, Routtenberg credited his family for being the reason why music has made such a huge impact on his life.

"As musicians, it's kind of been carried down my mom's side of the family," Routtenberg said. "My great uncle was a singer, my grandpa was a singer and drummer, my uncle is a drummer… so now it's kind of like I'm the next one in line. I just wanted to keep it going."

Routtenberg's main forte is percussion, mostly those associated with salsa, Latin and jazz like congas, bongos and timbales. He studied with different Latin percussion artists in LA and has been playing the drums since the 6th grade.

Sammy Rivera, the band leader for Orquesta Afinque, has known Routtenberg for almost two years when he took over Rivera's spot in Conquista Musical. He considers Routtenberg as one of his own and has no doubt about his band partner's musical skills.

"He has an excellent knowledge of percussion," Rivera said. "Now we're working on singing."

Routtenberg has only been singing in the group for about a year and is still trying to master the art as it's not really like singing, but mostly like rhythmic talking. There's also a creative side to it all.

"When you sing salsa lyrics, half the song is mainly improvisation. Every night you sing the beginning of the song the same and then it comes to a section of the song where it's open and the singer can add on to what was written before."

Gilbert Anthony Roman, the leader of Routtenberg's other band, Conquista Musical, describes Routtenberg as "a go-getter, honest and sincere and a good kid… someone I would have no problem with if he was dating my daughter."

Roman also said that Routtenberg is humble and probably more talented than he realizes.

"He has a real good feel," Roman said. "His natural tempo is a contribution [to the band]; he plays with strength and conviction."

Rivera and Roman both describe Routtenberg as a "talented kid" and acknowledged his willingness to share his wealth of information with everyone.

"He learns with some pretty good names," Roman said. "Even advanced players can learn a lot from him."

While his musical endeavors are already in full swing, plans for his future in music will remain the same.

"I'll always be a musician. Even if I'm not fortunate enough to make it a career and making it big, I'll always do it as a hobby," Routtenberg said. "I'll always have music."

Until then, he's going to continue what he's doing and see where the road takes him.

"I'm in control of my destiny to a certain extent and then leave it up to God to lead me to where He feels I should be," Routtenberg said.

"I have a motto: 'always set your goal higher than your grasp.' Just set your goal higher than what you know you can reach, that way when you achieve it, you've done what you thought was impossible. I just set my goals high and don't stop until I get there, and it hasn't failed me since."

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LYNUS: Band released 'Hang in There Holly Near' last year

Continued from B5

their senior year at Sheldon High School, where all the band members attended, they got into more harder-edged music.

"Our early songs were like three chords, and we didn't have words, so Joe just soloed the whole time," Spurlock said with a laugh.

The band's current influences range from Superdrag and the Strokes to Elliot Smith and Reggie and the Full Effect.

"I don't think anyone could pick apart one of our influences just by listening to us," Senna said, adding they categorize themselves as indie-pop.

The band practices in a small room at a warehouse-looking practice facility off of Fruitridge Road, between South Watt and Howe Ave. The walls are lined with the faces of the Beatles, KISS and Luke Skywalker. There's a mini-fridge, two couches and a TV with a VCR. The band seemingly spends a lot of time here, as it's set up to resemble something like a teenager's bedroom.

The band is unsigned, which can be attributed to the lack of similar types of music coming out of the Sacramento music scene, Senna said.

In 2003, Lynus won a spot on the Vans Warped Tour on the Ernie Ball stage, which is the stage reserved for local musicians for each concert. Senna entered them in a contest on the Ernie Ball Web site, and didn't tell the band about it until they won.

Lynus
What: Indie-pop performance
When: Noon, today
Where: Serna Plaza
Cost: Free

"It actually turned out to be pretty cool," Spurlock said. "We had a big crowd that day."

Last year, the band released an EP titled "Hang in There Holly Near," which can be found at all Dimple Records locations and on Interpunk.com for $5.

One of the tracks, "Good Night Inn," is about Senna's cat, Emily, who died last year.

"I write mainly about life experiences," Senna said, who handles the lyrics and comes up with the main parts of the music as well. "I don't think I could sing about what someone else wrote."

All of the band members hold day jobs while trying to work around their practice and touring schedule. Senna works at Hooters, which he calls "a fun job." Ngo and Spurlock work at Original Pete's, and Brown works at "the ghetto mall," a reference to Florin Mall.

Brown said that he'd like to just be successful with this band, and be able to support himself with music.

"No doubt about it, in five years I see myself on TV," Senna deadpans. "It would be nice to be able to play music for the rest of my life and not worry about having a job."

Frank Miller can be reached at features@statehornet.com

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Online now:
- Punk Rock Academy with slideshow
- Hypnotist visit by Tom Deluca
- Sexcapades by male and female staff writers

Thursday:
- Dining & nightlife guide: Opa! Opa!

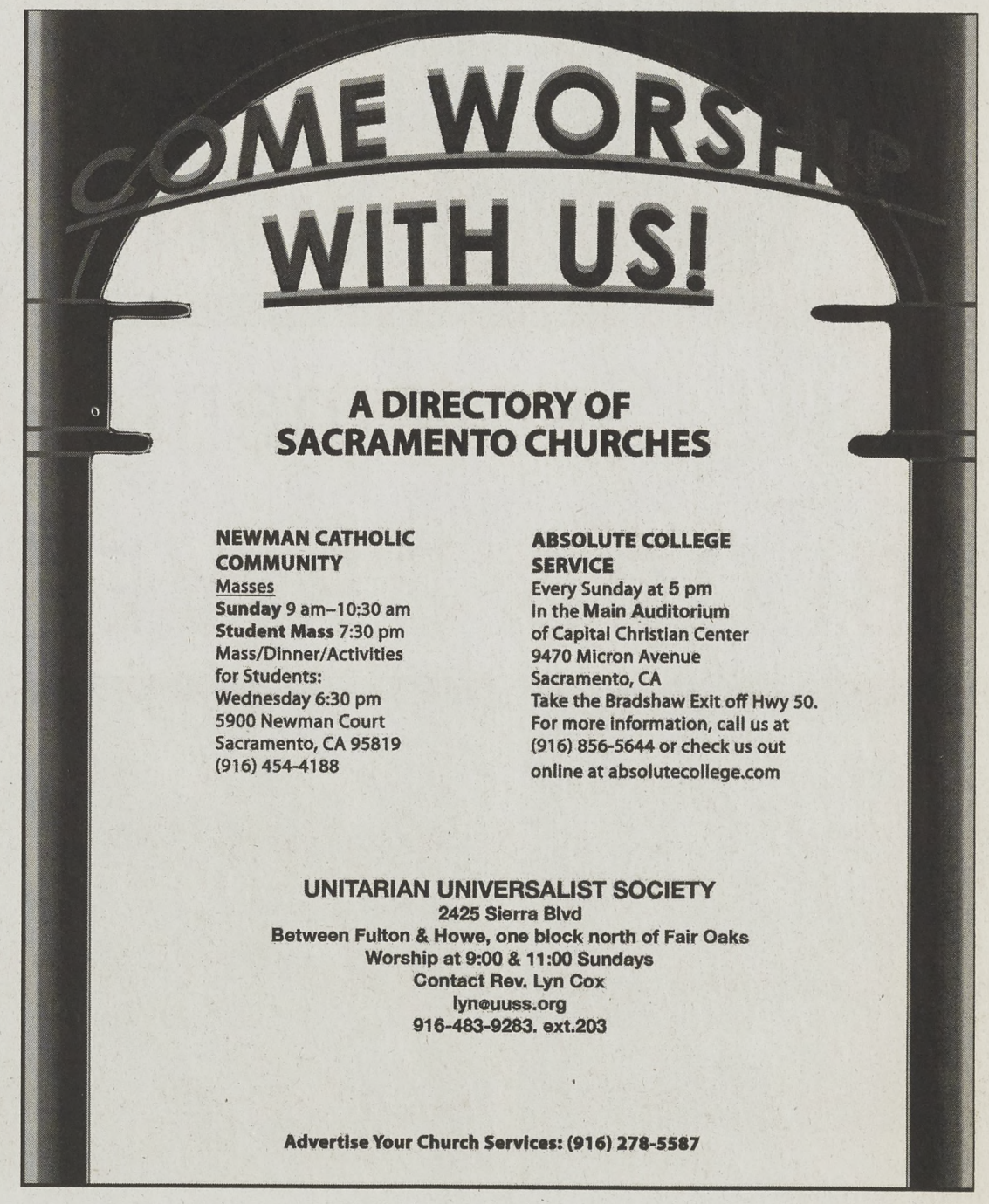
Friday:
- This week in movies

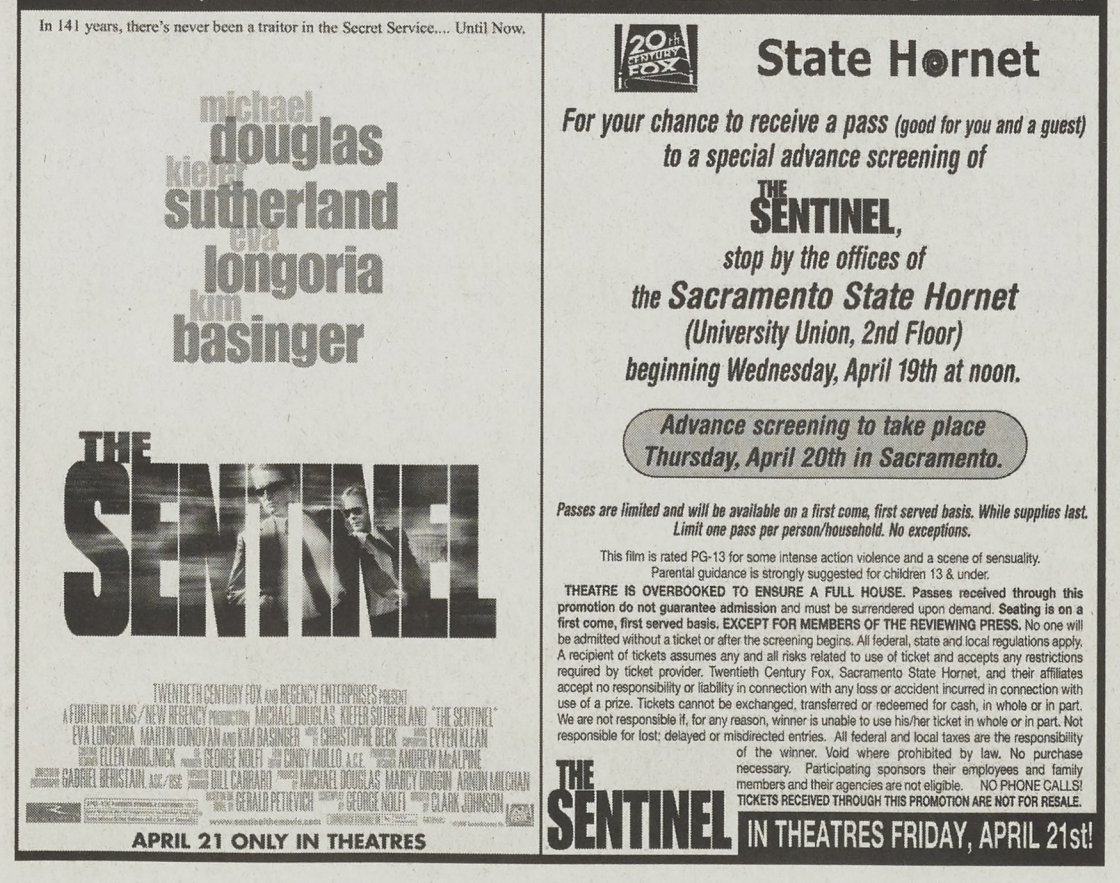
Saturday:
- Purse fasion (picture at left)

Sunday:
- CD review of the Flaming Lips' "At War With the Mystics"









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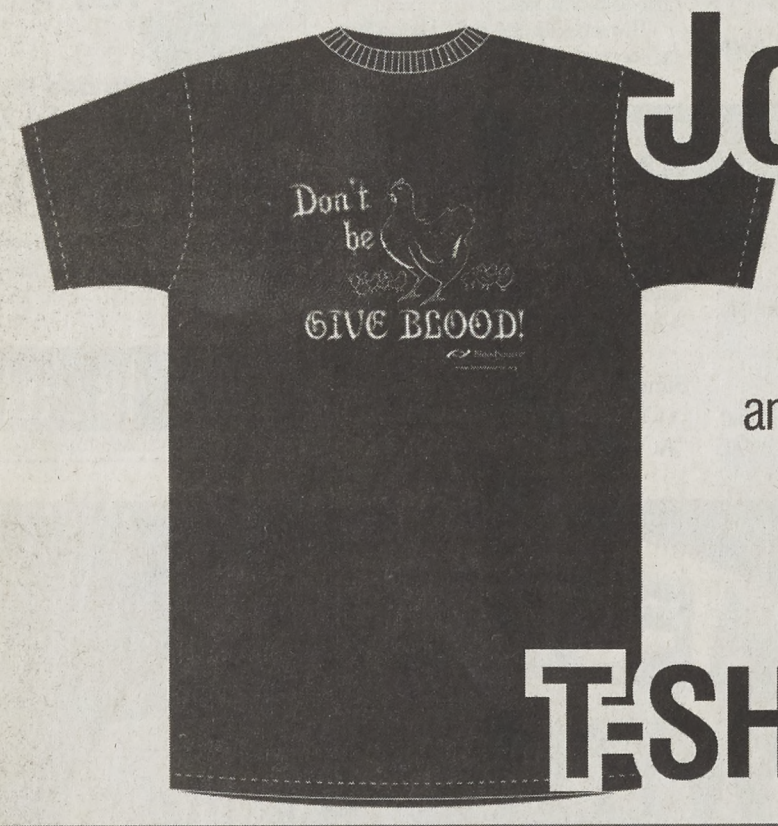
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